

THE WINDMILL, RAYLEIGH

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report refers the question of its future management of The Windmill, Rayleigh to Members.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Windmill is owned by the District Council, as successor in title to the former Rayleigh Urban District Council. The latter licensed the Windmill to the Rayleigh & District Antiquarian Society in 1969. The Licence provides for:

- ◆ A yearly fee of 5 pence.
- ◆ No fee review.
- ◆ Re-entry by the Council in default of payment.
- ◆ The application of certain conditions.
- ◆ Three months notice on either side.

It is worth noting that the Licence is more akin to a lease.

- 2.2 The Society has a membership in excess of 120. However, only one Trustee survives of the original three appointed in 1966. Following discussions with the Members of the Society, the Corporate Director (Law, Planning and Administration) obtained a model constitution from the Charity Commission which was passed to the Society for its consideration. This is a modern constitution and if adopted will address the need to enlist additional Trustees.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Society are quite keen to discuss their aims and aspirations with the District Council. The Mill itself is a very large building with considerable potential if funds could be identified to bring it into full use. It is suggested that the Working Group should visit the site to appraise themselves of this potential.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Nothing at this stage.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Nothing at this stage.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Licence fee is nominal. The District Council will assist with urgent works. However, there are longer-term budgetary implications. Partnership or Lottery Match Funding can be investigated.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Licence is more like a lease than the less formal basis on which the Windmill is occupied and used by the Society. As the Society is re-considering its arrangements, and in view of the changes due to the general Mill Hall area, the Council may wish to consider its own arrangements, particularly if significant funding maybe required.

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Windmill is in the Rayleigh Town Council area. It has recently requested permission to place a small commemorative plaque on the Mill.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Working Group **RECOMMENDS**

To commence discussions with the Rayleigh & District Antiquarian Society as to the potential for development and management of the Rayleigh Windmill.

Albert Bugeja

Head of Legal Services

Background Papers:

None

For further information please contact Charles Thomas on (01702) 546366