

Leisure, Tourism & Heritage Committee – 20 June 2006

Minutes of the meeting of the **Leisure, Tourism & Heritage Committee** held on **20 June 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Vice-Chairman: Cllr P R Robinson

Cllr J P Cottis
Cllr T E Goodwin
Cllr C J Lumley
Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R A Amner and C G Seagers.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	- Chief Executive
D Timson	- Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
S Rom	- Economic Development Officer
L Jefferys	- Leisure Development Officer
M Martin	- Committee Administrator

197 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C J Lumley declared an interest in item 9 of the agenda by virtue of being a Member of Rayleigh Town Council.

198 TOURISM DESTINATION PRINT PROJECT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive seeking Members' endorsement to the design and development of the Council's Destination Print (Visitors' Guide) and related literature.

In response to Member questions/comments, the following was noted:-

- This was at the draft stage only and would be further updated as the project developed.
- The printing of these publications would be outsourced with a deadline of March 2007.
- The intention was that a section of the Council's website would be developed for visitor information, with printable documents.
- A large quantity of information was already available which needed to be brought together and rationalised.

- The budget would provide for an initial run of 10,000 copies of the Visitors' Guide, which would be distributed to a range of information points including Parish Councils and Libraries.
- A further visit to the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park would be arranged so that new Councillors would have a chance to see it along with any Members who had been unable to attend the previous visit.
- Members were invited to check out any of the walking routes around the District and report back to officers.

Resolved

- (1) That the design and format for the content of the Destination Print booklet be endorsed.
- (2) That the design and format of the walks leaflet be endorsed. (CE)

199 PLAYSPACE POLICY

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) seeking Member agreement in respect of future policy regarding playspace upgrading, maintenance and repair, in partnership with Parish Councils.

Members noted that the report related to those playspaces owned and managed by the District Council. The District Council could offer support in terms of advice and guidance to the relevant Parish Council for the few which were owned by Parishes.

Members welcomed the officer's suggested approach whereby the main thrust would be to work on play area refurbishment with Parish Councils, as often Parish Councils could access funding streams and bid for sources of finance from which the District Council was excluded. Whilst the issues that had arisen at the Sutton Court Playspace in Rochford had been specific to that area, the template provided an example of a joint funding of provision between the District Council and the Parish.

In response to Member questions, the following was noted:-

- The District Council was currently developing its own expertise around grant funding, utilising specific grant search software.
- The template employed at Sutton Court Playspace would effectively enable the Council's own playspace budget to go further and it enabled the Parish Council to become involved in issues relating to its local area concerning playspace renewal.

- Damage to individual pieces of play equipment was often covered by insurance.
- In terms of safety, play equipment was checked on a twice-weekly basis by the Council's contractor. Playspaces fulfilled the criteria of being protected by passive surveillance and were generally in areas of high visibility.

Resolved

- (1) That the actions set out in Section 4 of the Committee report in respect of future development of the Council's playspaces be adopted.
- (2) That the actions set out in Section 5 of the Committee report in respect of nuisance be adopted. (CD(ES))

200 PLAYSPACE ROLLING PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) seeking Members' approval to the list of sites to be included in the rolling programme of play space refurbishment in 2006/07.

Members noted and agreed the schemes identified in paragraph 3.2 of the report for 2006/07. Schemes identified for 2007/08 also required agreement in order that officers could work with the relevant Parish Council in an attempt to seek appropriate grant funding.

Resolved

- (1) That the programme of playspace refurbishments for 2006/07, as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the Committee report, be agreed.
- (2) That the programme of playspace refurbishments for 2007/08, as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the Committee report, be agreed and that officers work with the Parish Councils to seek grant funding to support the programme. (CD(ES))

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Chairman

Date