

ISSUES ARISING FROM COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 March 2003

1 HOLMES PLACE PROGRESS REPORT

- 1.1 This item of business was referred by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 March to this Committee with a recommendation that the Mill Hall be renamed “The Mill (Arts and Events Centre)” and that the Council’s crest be relocated from the front of the Mill building to the side.
- 1.2 During a presentation on the progress and development of the Leisure Management Contract, the Operations Manager for Holmes Place, Mr Carl Bentley, confirmed that Holmes Place would like the Council to give consideration to renaming the Mill Hall “The Mill (Arts and Events Centre)” and relocating its crest from the front of the building to the side. Holmes Place felt that relocation of the crest would help the objective of providing a clean lined modern look to the building. This, combined with renaming, was seen as a valuable re-branding approach that would move public perception away from the facility only being a public hall.
- 1.3 Mr Bentley confirmed that it had always been an objective of Holmes Place to ensure existing activities at Mill Hall were maintained but that the customer based was enhanced. The Committee noted that the proposals had been originally identified at the initial contract stage and that all costs would be met by the contractor. It was observed that the proposals could improve the hall’s commercial prospects.
- 1.4 It is proposed that the Community Services Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That the Mill Hall be renamed “The Mill (Arts and Events Centre)”.
 - (2) That the Council's crest be relocated from the front of the Mill building to the side. (CD(F&ES)/Holmes Place)

2 BEST VALUE REVIEW – EMERGENCY PLANNING

- 2.1 This item of business was referred by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 March to this Committee with a recommendation that a range of actions be approved and that consideration be given to re-issuing a leaflet on Flood Advice. A copy of the Officer’s report is attached at Appendix 1.

- 2.2 The Committee noted that, from the financial perspective, the cost of endorsing all the actions emanating from the review would represent an increase to the current budget of approximately £2,600. Constitutionally, any proposals associated with the formation of an Emergency Planning Sub-Committee would need to be agreed by Full Council. It was also note that:-
- There was a possibility that the Government would issue a White Paper on Emergency Planning during the Spring of 2004.
 - Any negotiations with Castle Point Borough Council as to partnership arrangements for joint use of its dedicated facility would include provision for reciprocal arrangements as appropriate.
 - The development of proposals for an appropriate location for an Emergency Planning Response Centre would not necessarily result in increased costs.
- 2.3 The Committee recognised that addressing Emergency Planning was particularly timely in the context of world-wide concerns on potential terrorist and other incidents. Overall, the proposed actions could be seen as striking an appropriate balance, with increased costs being relatively marginal.
- 2.4 The Committee agreed that an Emergency Planning Sub-Committee should have executive powers. With regard to proposed actions to address flooding, reference was made to a difference between the observation in the report that the Council should maintain the current position of providing sandbags for the elderly and vulnerable and a recent press article indicating that the Council did not make such provision. Reference was also made to a Council leaflet on flood advice which appeared to contradict the position set out in the report.
- 2.5 During debate, the possibility that the Council's newspaper, Rochford District Matters could be utilised to set out the correct position on sandbags was raised. Officers indicated that the cost of re-issuing a leaflet was likely to be in the region of £700 to £800.
- 2.6 It is proposed that the Community Services Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) To agree the action set out at Appendix D of the report of the Chief Executive (including the introduction of a budget provision of up to £3,000 to extend current sandbag arrangements) and that Full Council be asked to establish an Emergency Planning Sub-Committee with appropriate executive powers.

- (2) Whether or not to consider to re-issue the leaflet on flood advice. (CE)

3 WOODLANDS STRATEGY

- 3.1 This item of business was referred by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 March to this Committee with a recommendation that the Woodlands Management Strategy and associated Action Plan be adopted and that there be further reports on the finalised Woodlands Grant Scheme and progress relating to the Action Plan. A copy of the Officers report is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The Committee noted that the strategy would address resource issues associated with current demands on the woodlands service and lead to service development. It was observed that the strategy was of particular importance in the context of the Council's role within the Thames Gateway Project.
- 3.3 The Committee also noted that the establishment of an access road from the A1013 to the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park was part of the latter stages of the Park project. Officers would investigate improve signage to indicate that the public could access this location via a public footpath.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the Community Services Committee **RESOLVES**
 - (1) That the Woodlands Management Strategy and the associated Action Plan be adopted.
 - (2) That Officers report back with the finalised Woodlands Grant Scheme documents.
 - (3) That progress reports on the Action Plan be brought back to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis. (CD(F&ES))

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Background Papers:

None

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