

Appendix A

Runnymede Borough Council

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

18 November 2021 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee Present: Councillors C Howorth (Chairman), M Adams (Vice-Chairman), R Bromley, T Burton, D Clarke, T Gracey, M Harnden, J Hulley, S Lewis, and J Olorenshaw

Members of the Committee absent: None

Councillor M Cressey also attended the meeting.

283 Fire Precautions

The Chairman read out the Fire Precautions.

284 Presentation – Holme Farm Project, Woodham Park Road

The Committee received for information, a detailed presentation by Pippa Tucker Brown and Andi Roy, on the proposed Holme Farm Project in the Woodham and RowTown ward. Members were advised that on 6 November, Defra, who owned the land in question, had agreed in principle to lease it to the project, who it was hoped would become a registered charity very shortly. This was a significant landmark and patronage was being sought from the Earl and Countess of Wessex, Dr Ben Spencer MP, and local businessman, Robert Mandry

The next steps were to develop the vision's four elements; Nature and Conservation, Education, Social Cohesion and Mental and physical health, and to secure funding, some of which had already been raised, notably from Surrey County Council, via the efforts of local County Councillors, ward members and other Councillors, who all spoke in favour of the venture.

The Committee was provided with supplementary information set out in an accompanying brochure, tabled by the team. This included a detailed site plan showing all the various strands of the project. Members agreed this was ambitious and diverse as well as catering for all ages and abilities.

Individuals in the team were congratulated for their achievements, particularly Ronnie and Christine Kendall, whose idea it was, and thanks were extended to the Council's Chief Executive and former Projects and Voluntary Sector Officer in Community Development, both of whom had shown support for the project.

It was anticipated that a formal request for funding would be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee in January 2022, via the Lead Officer, the Corporate Head of Community Services.

Members were asked to note that the project should align with the Council's own health and wellbeing strategy, with the intention of maintaining and developing a supportive partnership in the future.

285 **Notification of Changes to Committee Membership**

The Groups mentioned below had notified the Chief Executive of their wish that the changes listed below be made to the membership of the Committee. These changes were for a fixed period ending on the day after the meeting and thereafter the Councillors removed would be reappointed.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Remove</u>	<u>Appoint instead</u>
Conservative	Councillor D Coen	Councillor J Hulley
Conservative	Councillor S Walsh	Councillor T Gracey
Independent Group	Councillor C Mann	Councillor J Olorenshaw

The Chief Executive had given effect to the change to Committee membership in accordance with section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

286 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 September 2021 were confirmed and Signed as a correct record.

287 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

288 **Fees and Charges for Community Services 2022/2023**

The Committee's approval was sought for the relevant fees and charges in Community Services and Community Development for 2022/2023.

Members noted that Chertsey Museum drew a wide catchment of schools and that their activities were very popular. Some Members queried the % increases compared with the actual price increase. Officers stated that it was important to cover the museum's costs. However, it was agreed to give further consideration to this with regard to talks at school assemblies and provide the rationale for the structure for borough and non-borough based activities.

Officers were asked to undertake some benchmarking for allotments charges, which it was acknowledged were higher than some neighbouring authorities charged, but were gradually aligning.

Officers were asked to confirm how many requests Safer Runnymede received for DVDs per annum and whether file transfer instead of supplying DVDs would be a cheaper and more secure option.

RESOLVED that –

the proposed fees and charges as set out in Appendix 'A' be approved, to be effective from the dates within the appendix or as soon as practical thereafter

289 **Foxhills Community Camp 2021**

The Committee noted an account of the Foxhills Community Camp, funded by the Hayton Trust in the sum of £100k, for three years from 2019 to 2022.

The Camp was in its second year, therefore, catering for 50 young people, aged between 6 and 14 years, who because of their family circumstances, would otherwise have lacked the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities over the summer months. The full report was available on the Council's website and Members were provided with a useful summary, demonstrating the

benefits of the camp and how rewarding it was for all concerned. Officers explained that children were referred by various agencies and because places were limited were accepted on a first come first served basis. To assist the families, transport was provided to the venues at Egham Orbit and the Big Hat Bushcamp in Lyne, by the Council's Community Transport service. Members noted details of the staffing, training, and budgetary implications and reviewed the positive feedback.

The Committee thanked Officers for their report, noting plans to involve the Council's Communications team in future marketing and promotion of the camp. It was agreed the initiative was very worthwhile and its success could be highlighted in the February edition of Runnymede Talks, distributed across the borough.

290 **Community Services Performance Indicators – Quarter 2 2021/2022**

The Committee noted the Quarter 2 results of the performance indicators for Community Services. Officers confirmed that the Quarter 2 and 3 results for Community Development would be presented at the next scheduled meeting in January 2022. The performance indicators would also be presented to the Partnership Board with Surrey Heath.

Officers reported another quarter of strong performance, in what continued to be challenging times, for which staff across the Business Centre were commended, particularly for their flexibility, diligence and commitment. There were a number of vacancies to be recruited to which when filled, Officers anticipated would improve resilience and support for staff, as well as providing opportunities for expansion and income generation and more resourceful use of funding. The Home Improvement Agency was a case in point and would be the subject of a future report to the Committee.

Members noted that consultation on merging Community Development and Community Services was part way through which would result in a slightly different approach to how performance would be recorded and reported in the new year. Officers considered the merger to be an opportunity to refresh and relaunch the Service area of 'Community' and aid the recruitment of staff to populate the new structure.

Officers highlighted the success of the hospital discharge service, Homesafe Plus and the Handyman Service, and the expanding partnership working across North West Surrey between agencies.

The Committee noted a slight decrease in Meals at Home across both boroughs and the slow recovery of the Transport Service and Day Centres. Community Halls were still being used as vaccination centres.

291 **Chertsey Meads Management Liaison Group – Minutes 31 August 2021**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Chertsey Meads Management Liaison Group, held on 31 August 2021, as attached at Appendix 'A', were noted.

292 **Cabrera Trust Management Committee – Minutes AGM and ordinary meeting – 2 September 2021**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Cabrera Trust Management Committee held on 2 September 2021, as attached at Appendices 'B' and 'C', were noted.

293 **Aviator Park Skatepark**

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this matter under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3s and 5 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Act.

The Committee was updated on the measures put in place for the use of the Skatepark in Aviator Park, Addlestone, and were appraised of steps taken in defence of legal proceedings since this matter was last considered by this Committee. Members were asked to resolve the Council's position concerning legal proceedings initiated by a number of residents in the vicinity of the skatepark.

Officers advised that since the last report to the Committee in January 2021, consultation had taken place with park users and residents shortly thereafter. This resulted in the installation of fencing and restrictions placed on the opening hours of the park. An opening and closing regime was put in place for 6 months initially, but it was agreed this should continue until further notice and pending any decision of the court which was due to have its second Hearing in January 2022.

The Committee reviewed the Officer's report before it, to help clarify the Council's position. The key points arising therefrom, and consequential resource and legal implications were duly noted, as were the future options with regard to the skatepark.

Members were presented with three options and after debate chose the one set out at paragraph 2.71 of the report, as amended. Members agreed that the current situation was unfortunate and sought an outcome which balanced the requirements of both park users and residents.

RESOLVED that –

- i) the current schedule of opening and closing hours continue until further notice; and**
- ii) the strategy as set out in para 2.7.1 of the report, as amended, be approved**

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 9.20 pm)