

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 5TH JULY 2016, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY

PRESENT: Cllr N Bastow (Chair)
Cllrs: Mrs G Baker (see min. 88/16) Mrs L Edwards, Mrs L Griffiths, Mrs M Jones, J Pearson, S Williams, C Wood

OFFICERS: Mrs R Dudley, Town Clerk
Mr T Owens, Student Advisor

VISITORS: Mr John Hardy, Conwy CBC

86/16 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: W Bagnall, R Foreman, Mrs V Smith & T Earley (Town Clerk)

87/16 Declarations of Interest:

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests. None were declared.

88/16 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting, held on 14th June 2016.

Cllr Mrs Glenys Baker arrived at this juncture.

89/16 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

(a) Min. 44/16(d) – Parc Eirias 3G Pitch:

The Chair welcomed Mr John Hardy to the meeting. He had been requested to attend by the Committee to explain the reason for the proposed location of the new 3G sports pitch in Parc Eirias.

Mr Hardy explained that the plan for Eirias Park was to make it a Centre of Excellence for Sport (to include football and hockey). The Eirias Board had been awarded £300,000 funding for a full sized 3G artificial grass pitch and, having given the matter full consideration, had decided on the chosen site (see Appendix A). The Planning Application had been finalised today. The Glan y Don Site had been deemed impractical for a number of reasons, but principally because a bank of trees by the Civic Centre would have to be removed. The site had also been earmarked for improvement.

A survey had been undertaken and three main areas in the park, which were currently isolated and underused, had been identified, which comprise of 14,500 sq metres. The proposal is to bring these areas back to life and for the public to use; to replant where necessary, get rid of the overgrowth and weeds and to encourage birds, bats and wildlife to the area.

The Chairman then invited the members to ask questions and the following is a brief summary of the comments and questions made:

Concern was expressed that Colwyn Bay would be losing its 'jewel in the crown'. However, another member commented that the Town needs to move forward and needs it needs revenue and investment.

In response to a question, Mr Hardy said that there would be 3 months of disruption at the site. He was informed that many local residents use that area for dog walking and questioned whether the area would now be used for elite sports only. Some members were not convinced that the facility would become a Centre of Excellence. Mr Hardy said that they currently struggled to keep up with the demand from local school children (Secondary and Junior) for the indoor pitch, which is available for the use by the community as a whole. As the funding was specifically for a new site, the new 3G pitch will take pressure off the existing grass pitch, training will take place on the 3G pitch and the stadium pitch will be upgraded. Mr Hardy said that local children and schools would benefit from the new facilities.

Strong objections were made about the severe loss of a large open access area of the parkland (estimated to be 30% of the current usable open space) and Mr Hardy was asked if the development of the new open green spaces would run in tandem with the development of the site and what safeguards would be put in place to ensure that the open spaces will be delivered, as promised. Mr Hardy said that the development of the open spaces would be a condition of planning consent, but did say there was no time frame in place and also funding for the redevelopment of these areas had not yet been identified and therefore was not guaranteed.

Mr Hardy confirmed that the site would be enclosed and floodlit and that car parking would not be a problem. For large events, traffic management would be in place. He also confirmed that there were no plans for changing rooms; those facilities are available in the main building and there is absolutely no intention of building anything else at the site.

He was asked if the reason for not using the Glan Y Don Site was due to the resale of the Civic Centre. Mr Hardy responded no, it was to do with the trees.

Members felt that there had to be a balance struck between residents enjoying their local environment and allowing/encouraging investment in the area.

Mr Hardy said he would be willing to return at any time to address any further concerns the Committee may have and also to hear any ideas the Committee may have about the rest of the park. The Chairman thanked Mr Hardy and he retired from the meeting.

(b) Min 70/16 (d) – Homeless man in Rhos on Sea:

The update from Conwy CBC was received and noted.

(c) Min 352/15 – Charges on Colwyn Bay Promenade:

The Assistant Clerk submitted a letter from Conwy CBC and an email from Cllr Mrs Baker regarding the proposed charges on the promenade. Cllr Mrs Baker had asked if residents would receive a free residential parking permit. Conwy CBC had replied to say that they didn't think it would be applicable as there are only a few properties with frontal access and the majority of these have off street parking. Seasonal parking permits will be available for residents at the cost of £95 + VAT, although no firm decision has been made yet.

Resolved that the Clerk would write to ask if the charges will be seasonal and why the proposed charges will now apply between 8am – 6pm where as originally the times were 10am – 4pm

(d) Min 70/16 (b) – Bus Shelters:

(i) A response from Conwy CBC regarding cleaning costs was received. It was noted that a total of 20 shelters had been cleaned at a cost of £312.

(ii) A Bus Shelter quote was submitted for Eirias Park and also an email explaining that due to the restrictive size of the site, A 2 bay Chester shelter would be the most appropriate.

Resolved to accept the quotation for a 2 bay Chester Shelter at the Eirias Park site.

(iii) An email from Conwy CBC was submitted regarding attending a Bus Shelter Survey on 27th or 28th July 2016. Cllr Chip Wood was nominated to accompany the Clerk and the Committee delegated authority to the Clerk and Cllr Wood to make decisions on the day of the survey regarding maintenance and taking advice.

(e) Mon 351/15 – Design for Cycle/Footway:

The update was received and noted.

(f) Min 380/14 – Spar Cycle Racks:

Members noted that no planning permission was required for the cycle racks and requested that the Clerk write to the Spar Manager to say that the cycle racks could now be placed outside the store.

(g) Min 372/15 – Centenary Fields:

The acknowledgement to our request that Queens Gardens be considered was received and noted.

90/16 Conwy CBC:

The Assistant Clerk submitted, for consideration, the following items from CCBC:

Written report from Cllr B Bagnall on the Bay Life Strategic Management Group

Resolved to receive and note the report.

91/16 Transport:

The Assistant Clerk submitted:

- (a) Bulletin from the Trunk Road Agency
- (b) Rail Task Force Prospectus
- (c) Community Transport Consultation for Conwy

Resolved to receive and note the documents.

92/16 Stakeholder Reference Group:

A summary of the financial situation was submitted.

Resolved to receive and note the summary.

93/16 Other Correspondence:

It was noted that the following items of correspondence are available on request from the Clerk:

- a. Ombudsman's Annual Report
- b. Copies of booklets produced by Planning Aid Wales.

94/16 Planning:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the planning applications received from CCBC.

Resolved to submit observations on these applications, as detailed in Schedule A attached.

- b. *Resolved to receive a copy of the Planning Decisions issued by CCBC for the period 06/06/16 to 19/6/16.*
- c. It was noted that applications 0/42799 (West End Medical Centre) and 0/42543 (20, King's Road) had been withdrawn.
- d. Cllr Glenys Baker gave a brief report on the Planning Aid Course she had attended on 26th June. She felt it had been useful but only for inexperienced

members of the planning committee.

95/16 Licensing:

The recent licensing applications logged by CCBC were noted.

96/16 Conwy CBC Planning Appeal Notification:

The Assistant Clerk submitted a copy of the refusal notice for 75, Victoria Park, Colwyn Bay.

Resolved that the Town Council would write to the Planning Inspectorate to back up the Planning Authorities refusal.

97/16 Proposed Parking Order:

The Assistant Clerk submitted a copy of a parking order for Princes Car Park. The Council proposes to make the car park (currently short stay) into a long stay car park to meet the increased demand for long stay parking.

Resolved to support the proposal.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

..... Chairman