

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY WELL BEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on Tuesday 28 May 2013 at 2.15pm

Present

Councillors: Mrs H Bainbridge, E J Berry, M R Lee, C Slade (substituting for Mrs S M Fox) and Mrs N Woollatt

Apologies

Councillors: Mrs S M Fox, Mrs S Griggs and P F Williams

Also Present

Councillors: R M Deed, C J Eginton, Mrs J Roach and K D Wilson

Also Present

Officers: A Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance), P N Williams (Head of Environmental Services), L Reeves (Head of Customer Services), S Bennion (Leisure Facilities Manager), L Chester (Lords Meadow Leisure Centre Manager) and S J Lees (Member Services Officer)

- 1 **CHAIRMAN – ELECTION** (Cllr E J Berry, Chairman of the Council, in the Chair)

RESOLVED that Cllr Mrs H Bainbridge be elected Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2013/14.

Cllr Mrs Bainbridge took the Chair

- 2 **VICE-CHAIRMAN - ELECTION**

RESOLVED that Cllr M R Lee be elected Vice-Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2013/14.

- 3 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

- 4 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 March 2013 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed the Group that the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) would now be known as the Royal Voluntary Service. The reason for this was that the previous title was thought to be discriminatory.

6 CULLOMPTON SWIMMING POOL

Cllr Mrs N Woollatt had requested that this item be on the agenda for today's meeting. Dave Haslett, the Chairman of the Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign, provided the Group with a presentation and explained that the Campaigners were seeking a letter of support from the District Council to aid them in future grant applications. He further explained that the need for a swimming pool had been identified as the most important issue in the town. He provided background information in relation to feasibility studies and population statistics. He also explained that the proposed new facility would include a hydrotherapy pool and he made reference to the Axminster hydrotherapy facility which had proven to be able to more than cover its costs.

During discussion it was pointed out that should the new pool be sited at Padbrook Park this was on a main bus route as was the alternative proposed site of the Culm Valley Integrated Centre for Health. It was also confirmed that the proposal would include a learner pool. The comment was made that there was resistance from some Cullompton residents to travelling to Tiverton and that as a result they had stopped swimming altogether. It was also confirmed that the Council's Grants and Funding Officer could provide the Campaigners with further advice and assistance in seeking grant funding.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that the District Council provide a letter of support to the Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign.

(Proposed by Cllr Mrs N Woollatt, seconded by Cllr C Slade)

7 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT FOR THE 2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, the Performance and Risk report for the 2012/13 financial year providing Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for the 2012/13 financial year as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

Discussion took place regarding:

- 'Deliver a number of community projects' should be amended to read 'Support a number of community projects';
- 'Response to Planning Consultations' – it was agreed that the target figure needed to be amended on the next report;
- Data in relation to ensuring that 80% of people who contact the Council about anti-social behaviour see improvements was missing

for quarter 4. The Head of Communities and Governance agreed that as soon as this information was available she would forward it on to the Group Members;

- The 90% compliance with food hygiene law related to 10% of food premises not meeting the required standard.

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

8 **HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT**

The Group had before it the Health and Safety Policy Statement * for 2013/14. The Head of Environmental Services explained that the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act required that every employer with more than five employees was required to produce and adhere to a Health and Safety Policy Statement. Each employer had a responsibility to ensure the health and welfare of its employees so far as was reasonably practicable. The Mid Devon District Council Policy Statement set out its approach to identifying the risks and the hazards and what arrangements were in place to deal with these.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that the Health and Safety Policy Statement be approved for a further year.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: * Statement previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

9 **COUNCIL MOTION NO. 472 (CLLR MRS JENNY ROACH – 9 APRIL 2013)**

The following Motion had been referred by full Council to the Community Well Being Policy Development Group:

“This Council supports the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) Dignity Code and agrees to become a signatory.”

Cllr Mrs J Roach briefly explained that the Code set out the minimum expectations of staff and Members of the authority in their dealings with people of the older generation. Comments were made that these ought to be the minimum standards in relation to all vulnerable people not just those people of a particular age. It was confirmed that a Safeguarding Policy would be brought to the next meeting to discuss the Council's approach to all vulnerable people. In the meantime Members of the Group felt the Motion ought to be supported as it was worded.

RESOLVED that the Council be recommended to approve Motion 472.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

10 ECONOMIC REGENERATION – TOWN CENTRE UPDATE

The Chairman had requested that the Group receive an update from the Head of Communities and Governance on economic regeneration and specifically how the town centres within Mid Devon were fairing.

The following update was provided:

- Figures in relation to empty shops were performing well against target in all three towns;

Crediton:

- The High Street has a lot of independent shops rather than national chains;
- Funds allocated from the High Street Innovation Fund in relation to car parking signage were proving to be a success;
- £11k had been given to the Crediton Arts Centre. Footfall would be measured during the forthcoming Crediton Arts Festival;
- The Crediton Chamber of Commerce were still being supported in relation to their High Street Innovation Fund projects.

Cullompton:

- The Council was working closely with the New Town Team which now had a strong membership and included input from the Business Community, Town Council and Voluntary and Community Sector;
- A member of staff had been employed to assist each of the towns with economic regeneration schemes;
- A good trade group had been established with 50 – 60 businesses represented;
- The High Street Innovation Fund had provided funding for the street market initiative. However, the comment was made that it was disappointing that a recent successful trial to hold a street market on a Saturday had not been replicated and was currently confined to Wednesdays only. The Head of Communities and Governance agreed that her team would follow this up.

Tiverton:

- A Tiverton Town Team was also in existence;
- It was confirmed that whilst Mid Devon District Council was the accountable body for the £100k Mary Portas funding it was the Town Team who were the body seeking to deliver the projects; the Community Development team and the Revenues Manager were working hard to assist and advise the Town Team wherever they could;
- Tiverton Pannier market – plans were being progressed to extend and provide a cover over the market area; demand from traders was significant. The Head of Communities and Governance explained that traders were made aware of the opportunities available within Cullompton should they not be successful in obtaining a pitch in Tiverton.

- A project to deliver Footfall monitoring and analysis is being worked on by the Tiverton Town Team;
- The Council was working closely with Dr Frank O'Kelly to provide a rickshaw scheme but there were route and health and safety issues that needed addressing;
- The Museum had put in a bid for the Innovation Fund and have provided pop up displays in some of the empty shops.

Other projects:

- There had been a lot of take up of the business advice service which had now completed a 6 month pilot;
- Devon County Council had been out to walk the various sites proposed for the Tiverton coach park; discussions were on-going;
- It was confirmed that the national picture regarding the allocation of Mary Portas funding was not very positive.
- The Council's Economic Development Plan was being redrafted following the Peer Challenge to discuss what projects would be taken forward.

11 **LORDS MEADOW LEISURE CENTRE UPDATE**

The Group had requested at their last meeting that they continue to receive an update on the Lords Meadow Leisure Centre following recent enhancements.

The Leisure Facilities Manager provided the following update:

- Since the re-opening of the Leisure Centre at the end of March there had been a 16.5% rise in footfall to the fitness studio;
- Attendance to the dance studio was up by 38%;
- There were approximately 200 more members;
- Retention level was 1.5% better than at this time last year;
- Staff were working hard to secure corporate memberships;
- The Leisure Service had been set a target of achieving £80k additional income during 2013/14, so far this looked to be on target;
- Those people who had signed up to a 6 month membership in March would be approached in September to take up a 15 month membership;
- 'Student Zest Fest' and 'Shape up for Summer' were progressing well;
- Leisure Services would be heavily involved in the Crediton Festival;
- An Anesco Open Day would be held at the Leisure Centre, demonstrating the cost effectiveness of various energy saving schemes.

12 **STARTING TIME FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was **AGREED** that meetings of the Group continue to be held at 2.15pm on Tuesdays.

13 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – 24 JULY 2012**

In addition to the items already listed in the work programme the following items were identified for the next meeting:

- Update on the Tiverton Tourist Information Centre
- Update on health from the Cabinet Member for Community Well Being

(The meeting ended at 4.10pm)

CHAIRMAN