

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**
held on 29 May 2018 at 2.15 pm

Present

Councillors

B A Moore (Chairman)
Mrs A R Berry, F W Letch, Mrs E J Slade,
Mrs H Bainbridge, Mrs G Doe and
R J Dolley

Apologies

Councillor(s)

Mrs E M Andrews and Mrs C P Daw

Also Present

Councillor(s)

C R Slade, Mrs M E Squires and R L Stanley

Also Present

Officer(s):

Andrew Jarrett (Director of Finance, Assets and Resources), Lee Chester (Leisure Manager), Kevin Swift (Public Health Officer), Sally Gabriel (Member Services Manager), Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer) and John Bodley-Scott (Economic Development Team Leader)

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL IN THE CHAIR)

Cllr B A Moore was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Mrs G Doe and seconded by Cllr R J Dolley.

RESOLVED that Cllr B A Moore be elected Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2018/19.

Cllr B A Moore then took the Chair.

2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mrs E J Slade was proposed as Vice Chairman by Cllr Mrs H Bainbridge and seconded by Cllr R J Dolley.

RESOLVED that Cllr Mrs E J Slade be elected Vice Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2018/19.

3 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs C P Daw and Cllr E M Andrews.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Members were reminded of the need to declare interests. Cllr Mrs E J Slade declared a personal interest as a member of the Tiverton Museum Advisory Committee.

5 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th March 2018 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

6 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

7 **CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman thanked the Members of the Group for re-electing him as Chairman and welcomed them to the new municipal year. He also introduced the new Committee Clerk, Carole Oliphant, Member Services Officer.

8 **GRANT FUNDED AGENCY (00-06-22)**

The Chairman introduced Pippa Griffith (Museum Director) and Christine Ghail (Vice-Chairman) from Tiverton Museum who gave a presentation to the group explaining that the local community was at the heart of everything they did. They gave an overview of the close working relationships that the Museum had with local schools and the various education programmes that it ran. Over 1500 children had visited the Museum so far in 2018. She explained past and present projects that had taken place.

The Museum Director explained that the Museum had been voted the best Family Friendly Museum in the past and they had been nominated again in 2018. The Tourist Information Centre, part of the Museums remit had won bronze in the Visit Devon Tourism Awards.

The Museum currently relied on over 80 volunteers which was the equivalent of £79K worth of wages saved each year. There was only one full time member of paid staff.

The Museum Director informed the Group that the Museum was totally dependant on grants and without District Council support it's future would be in jeopardy. The District Council contributed 72% of all funding. The economic impact of the Museum's visitors was approximately £185k in 2017.

The Museum Director and Mid Devon Museum Development Officer were currently working with the Heritage Lottery Fund to secure £67k worth of funding to bring in consultants to help improve services, along with other funding initiatives.

The Committee requested that the figures provided for visitors from Mid Devon were clarified and the Museum Director said she would do this.

There was a general discussion about the need for sufficient signage in the town to attract more visitors to which Ms Griffiths replied that the Museum would welcome additional signage. Consideration was given to signage being looked into as part of the Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan.

Suggestions were made that the Museum could look to plan something district wide and consider putting mini displays in libraries and leisure centres in Crediton and Cullompton.

The Chairman thanked the Museum Director and Vice-Chairman for attending the meeting.

Note: Cllr Mrs E J Slade declared a personal interest as a member of the Tiverton Museum Advisory Committee.

9 AN OVERVIEW OF SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS FOR LEISURE (00-38-30)

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a * report of the Leisure Manager providing an overview of service delivery models for leisure services.

He outlined the contents of the report stating there were currently four models for leisure services:

- Local Authority Direct Provision
- Public Private Joint Venture
- Trust (join existing or establish new)
- Fully Outsourced

Consideration was given to all of the current models and there was a general discussion regarding the benefits and drawbacks of each of the models.

There was a discussion with regard to the dual use agreements with Devon County Council which allowed local schools direct access to the leisure facilities.

The Leisure Manager explained the revised 2017 VAT ruling which determined that the UK requirement for local authorities to charge VAT on leisure activities was unlawful. He explained what effect this could have on revenue streams and why it would not be in the best interests of Mid Devon District Council to pursue this at this time.

The Director of Finance, Assets and Resources explained that the current leisure facilities had undergone a programme of improvements and refurbishments and that the revenue from them was gradually increasing. He said that Mid Devon ran a wonderful service across all of its leisure sites but it would lose control if it entered into long term agreements with a supplier.

The Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being explained that the Council had been looking at leisure services for quite a while. There had been improvements at leisure centres across Mid Devon and revenue was growing all the time. He explained that there would not be the level of control that services would be maintained with another supplier.

The Group discussed and supported the current Local Authority Direct Provision model as offering the best control of services and value for money and that requested that the leisure service provision be reviewed every four years.

The Chairman thanked the Leisure Services Manager for a well balanced report.

Note: * Report previously circulated, copy attached to minutes.

10 **TRIM TRAILS (01-01-47)**

The Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being stated that the provision of Trim Trails was quoted in the Conservative Manifesto and the Cooperate Plan. Talks had been taking place with local councils and friends of Amory Park and £7.7k worth of funding had been secured through S106 contributions.

He explained the options of equipment available and that metal non moving kit would be recommended as this was more robust and less likely to wear out. A procurement exercise was currently being undertaken with the results being expected at the end of June 2018.

There was a general discussion regarding the type of equipment available and the cost involved in setting them up. A question was asked regarding the cost of leasing the land at Amory Park and the Public Health Officer was tasked with providing this information.

The Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being stated that the aim was to get a pilot space up and running to see how well it went. In other authorities developers were now installing Trim Trails on new developments and he would be looking for the developers of the Eastern Urban Extension and the Garden Village to provide these facilities.

There was a general discussion on how well the equipment would be used and the Public Health Officer explained that figures are difficult to come by and that a survey would need to be carried out.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for this information.

11 **CABINET MEMBER FOR THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES (01-20-30)**

The Committee had before it, and **NOTED**, a report * from the Cabinet Member for the Working Environment and Support Services updating Members regarding the areas covered with her remit.

She outlined the contents of the report and explained that she was also a Member of the Community Safety Partnership.

There was a general discussion on ways to prevent cardiovascular disease and a request that nutrition be placed on a future agenda. Cllr A R Berry advised that she could get healthcare professionals to a future meeting to discuss the issues.

The Public Health Officer advised the Group that there was an Active Family Group in Tiverton and there was a possibility of starting one up in Cullompton.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for the Working Environment and Support Services for her report.

Note: * Report previously circulated, copy attached to minutes.

12 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE (01.35.04)**

The Group had before it an *update from the Communications and Engagement Manager.

The Chairman outlined the contents of the report and discussion took place regarding putting residents first and the impact on communities when decisions were made by the District Council.

The Chairman requested that the role of the Community PDG be defined with regard to the Scrutiny Committee, Community Engagement Working Group and he would lobby for the working group considered reporting to the Community PDG prior to reporting to the Scrutiny Committee.

The Scrutiny Officer was asked to highlight the request at the initial scoping meeting of the Community Engagement Working Group to be held on 6th June 2018.

Note: *Report previously circulated, copy attached to minutes.

13 **START TIMES OF MEETINGS (01.40.00)**

Following discussion the Committee **AGREED** to continue to hold its meetings at 2.15pm for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.

14 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (01.43.17)**

The following issues would be addressed at the next meeting:

- Illegal Encampments
- Single Equalities Policy and Equality Objective
- Lifestyle, Diet & Nutrition
- Community Engagement update
- Conclusion of Trim Trail procurement process
- Update from Leisure Manager on the effect on visitor numbers of recent price changes and improvements to leisure facilities

(The meeting ended at 4.00 pm)

CHAIRMAN