

COMMUNITY POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting - 16 September 2013

Present: Mrs Cranmer, Mr Brown, Miss Hazell, Mrs Holloway, Mr Kelly, Mr Sandy and Mr Walters

In attendance: Mr Bagge

Apologies for absence: Ms Vigor-Hedderly

14. MINUTES

The Part I minutes of the meeting of the PAG held on 18 June 2013 were received.

15. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

The PAG received the latest crime statistics for the District in graph form as follows:

- Number of serious acquisitive crime (SAC) offences for the period April 2008 to September 2013
- Number of burglaries for the period April 2010 to September 2013
- Number of incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) for the period April 2008 to September 2013

The PAG noted that there has continued to be a decrease in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour. A reduction in August compared to last year could be due to targeted diversionary activity work with young people.

With regards to Serious Acquisitive Crime, incidences of theft from motor vehicles and burglaries from non-dwellings have increased significantly, particularly in Taplow, Dorney and Burnham. Reasons for this may include Metropolitan Police operations, prison releases, operations in neighbouring Local Police Areas such as Wycombe and the warm weather over the summer.

Since the beginning of April 2013, South Bucks has experienced an increase in burglaries from dwellings. Currently the Local Police Area as a whole is 14.5% up year to date. Areas that have seen an increase in burglary are Farnham, Burnham and Iver, with jewellery being especially targeted. The PAG were reassured that a well-resourced plan has been put in place to tackle the expected peak in burglaries over the winter period.

Having noted the increase in the number of burglaries in the district, Members felt that it would be useful to obtain the comments of Thames Valley Police together with the level of resources which were deployed during this period.

The PAG expressed concern regarding the issue of dog fouling in the district. The PAG requested that a report, setting out options on what could be done to tackle dog fouling, be submitted to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that

1. the update be noted.
2. a report be submitted to the next PAG on options for tackling dog fouling.
3. Thames Valley Police be asked to comment on the increase in the number of burglaries in the district including the level of resources which were deployed during this period.

16. VILLAGE HALL GRANTS

[Councillor Alan Walters declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as Chairman of the fundraising committee for Girlguiding Beaconsfield and took no part in the discussion. Councillor Ralph Bagge also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as a trustee of Stoke Poges Village Hall and took no part in the discussion]

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The PAG received a report setting out requests for Village Hall Grants (2013/2014) from Girlguiding Beaconsfield and Stoke Poges Village Hall.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that other community groups would be able to book the Girlguiding Beaconsfield Head Quarters once it opened.

Having considered the requests, the PAG were of the opinion that Girlguiding Beaconsfield and Stoke Poges Village Hall should be awarded the full amount requested.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the following grants be awarded:

1. Girlguiding Beaconsfield to be allocated £2,000 to fund a wheelchair ramp to provide disabled access for wheelchair users and anyone else who finds steps difficult to the new Beaconsfield Guide Head Quarters.
2. Stoke Poges Village Hall to be allocated £485 to replace two layers of insulation into the roof space after the old insulation had to be removed following a pigeon infestation.

17. **COMMEMORATING THE GREAT WAR CENTENARY IN SOUTH BUCKS**

The PAG received a report which advised Members of the various ways in which Parishes in the District were proposing to mark and remember The Great War and asked Members to consider options as to what the Council's role should be in commemorating the 1st World War.

The PAG supported the proposal, set out in the report, to allocate £300 from the community grant budget to each parish so that Town/Parish Councils and not-for-profit organisations can apply for support for an event or commemoration. The PAG felt it was important that any applications should be considered in liaison with Town/Parish Councils to ensure effective co-ordination of local events.

The PAG were also asked to advise the Portfolio Holder as to how Members could contribute in each ward or parish that will be holding Centenary or memorial events, such as parades, services and memorial wreath-laying. The PAG were of the opinion that Members should be given the opportunity to attend and lay wreaths as representatives of the Council at community Centenary and other commemoration events.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that

1. £300 from the community development grant budget be made available to each Parish area and that Town/Parish Councils, together with not-for-profit organisations, be invited to submit an application to the Council for funding an event or commemoration as set out in the criteria in paragraph 4.3.5 of the report.
2. applications received be considered in liaison with Town/Parish Councils to ensure effective co-ordination of local events.
3. due to the close timing of the first Centenary events that authority be delegated to the Director of Services, in consultation with the Community Portfolio Holder, to agree applications for funding up to £300.

Furthermore, having noted the view of the PAG that Members should be given the opportunity to attend and lay wreaths as representatives of the Council at community Centenary and other commemoration events (such as Remembrance Sunday) if invited to do so, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to discuss this with the Chairman so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

18. **MANAGEMENT CHANGES AT FARNHAM PARK PLAYING FIELDS AND THE SOUTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GOLF COURSES**

The PAG received a report which asked Members to consider proposed changes to the management of the South Buckinghamshire Golf Courses and Playing Fields at Farnham Park.

Members were advised of the need to establish a new General Manager's post which would be responsible for the overall site coordination and management of the South Buckinghamshire Golf Courses and Playing Fields at Farnham Park. This new post would ensure that there would be clear dedicated management in place, with a single high level of accountability and ownership. The post would report directly to the Director of Services and present regular updates to Members via a new South Buckinghamshire and Farnham Park Advisory Committee.

It was noted that this new post would be linked to the need to offer other savings from the Community Service at South Bucks. However, in the meantime until those savings can be realised an additional temporary budgetary provision would need to be agreed of up to £50K to cover this post over 13/14 and into 14/15.

Members were advised of the risks associated with not implementing the proposed new structure, including the failure to be able to deliver on the key income targets set out in the business case for the new clubhouse.

The PAG were in support of the new post and the other recommendations set out in the report.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder has **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that

1. support be given in principle for the new post.
2. additional funding of up to £50K to be split across 2013/14 and 2014/15 to cover the new post, should Personnel Committee and Council support the proposed changes, be allocated;
3. a new South Buckinghamshire & Farnham Park Advisory Committee be set up.

19. **LEISURE CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Members were asked to give consideration and advice to the Portfolio Holder on whether they would like officers to continue further negotiations with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) to extend the current leisure centre management contract for Beacon and Evreham.

The PAG were advised that if the Council was minded to agree to extend the contract, there would be significant advantages to agreeing it early as the remaining length of the contract would be long enough for any investment made by GLL into the facilities, which would form part of any agreement to extend the contract, to be recovered over that period.

The possible areas for investment which have been put forward from both parties as part of the early discussions were noted by the PAG.

In response to a question, the PAG were reassured that the contract requires GLL to agree the price structure with the Council every year.

The PAG were of the opinion that officers should continue further negotiations with GLL to extend the current leisure centre management contract for Beacon and Evreham.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder has **AGREED** that officers should continue further negotiations with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) to extend the current leisure centre management contract for Beacon and Evreham and that if a proposal advantageous to the Council arises that this be reported back to PAG for further consideration.

20. **OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

None received.

21. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Members noted that the following items contained information which was not available to the press and public

Part II minutes

(Schedule 12A Part 1 para (3) - because of information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular individual)

The PAG received the Part II minutes of the meeting of the PAG held on 18 June 2013.

Catering Contract - South Buckinghamshire Golf Course

(Schedule 12A Part 1 para (3) - because of information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular individual)

The PAG noted the report.

Farnham Park Sports Field Leases

(Schedule 12A Part 1 para (3) - because of information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular individual)

Following the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder agreed to recommend to the Cabinet that the recommendation in the report be adopted.

The meeting terminated at 7.35 pm