

## COMMUNITY POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

### Meeting - 3 December 2013

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

Apologies for absence: Mr Brown, Mr Sandy and Ms Vigor-Hedderly

#### 31. MINUTES

The Part I minutes of the meeting of the PAG held on 11 November 2013 were received.

#### 32. 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 November 2013
- Number of burglaries for the period April 2010 to November 2013
- Number of incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) for the period April 2008 to September 2013

The PAG noted that at the last meeting there had continued to be a decrease in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour. The statistics on anti-social behaviour were only available up until the end of August as the analyst from Bucks County Council, who recently left the Council, had yet to be replaced. The PAG were pleased to note that there had been a decrease in the number of ASB incidents which had occurred on Halloween this year compared to last year.

There had been a 0.7% reduction in burglaries across the District compared to last year. The PAG noted that reducing the number of burglaries across the District was a priority for the Community Safety Partnership.

Incidents of Serious Acquisitive Crime have increased significantly, particularly with regard to theft from motor vehicle. However, whilst there had been a significant increase, the gap between this year and the previous year was decreasing month on month.

The PAG noted that Nic Martin would be shortly leaving the Council to take up a new role in the Community Safety Team at Bucks County Council. The PAG wished Nic Martin well in his new role and thanked him for all his work over the years.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

#### 33. PORTFOLIO HOLDER BUDGETS 2014/15

The PAG considered a report seeking approval for the draft revenue budget and fees and charges schedule for 2014/15 for the Community Portfolio. The fees and charges schedule were set out in an appendix in Part II of the agenda and a revised version of the fees and charges was circulated at the meeting.

The report outlined the context of the overall financial position facing the Council and confirmed that in light of the uncertain external funding position for the Council, the Cabinet has decided that that there would be no discretionary growth allowed in the draft budgets.

The Cabinet, at its meeting on 19 November 2013, proposed a number of saving measures with the objective of reducing the forecast funding gap for the next two years. The proposals relevant to the Community Portfolio were set out in Part II of the agenda.

The PAG advised the Portfolio Holder to approve the 2014/15 revenue budget of £748,000 and the 2014/15 fees and charges for submission to Cabinet.

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Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder has **APPROVED** for submission to the Cabinet:

- 1) The 2014/15 revenue budget of £748,000
- 2) The 2014/15 fees and charges

### 34. FARNHAM CHARITABLE TRUST BUDGETS 2014/2015

The PAG considered a report on the draft revenue and capital budgets and fees and charges for 2014/15 for the Farnham Charitable Trust. The fees and charges were set out in an appendix in Part II of the agenda.

The PAG noted the current capital programme for the Farnham Charitable Trust as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report. The PAG were advised that the capital programme for 2015/16 should be £15,000 rather than £50,000 as shown in the table in the report.

The PAG were advised that the financial performance of the playing fields was continuing to improve and that the opening of the new clubhouse and the new management arrangements for the Trust would have a significant positive impact on the Trust's activities.

The PAG were made aware of the risks within the budget. One of these risks was the effect of the Clubhouse redevelopment, and whether the financial targets within the business plan for the Clubhouse would start to be achieved. In recognition of this risk, the PAG noted the important role that the South Buckinghamshire and Farnham Park Advisory Group, which was due to be set up early next year, would have in ensuring that the new Clubhouse would be a financial success.

The PAG advised the Portfolio Holder to approve the 2014/15 revenue budget of £107,390, the 2014/15 capital budget of £35,000 and the 2014/15 fees and charges for submission to Cabinet.

Having considered the comments of the PAG the Portfolio Holder has **APPROVED** for submission to the Cabinet:

- 1) The 2014/15 revenue budget of £107,390
- 2) The 2014/15 capital budget of £35,000
- 3) The 2014/15 fees and charges

### 35. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & VILLAGE HALL GRANT

The PAG considered two requests for capital grants from Dorney Village Hall and Gerrards Cross Fun Run 2014.

Dorney Village Hall is 40 years old and is in need of significant repair to the roof, electrics and drainage. As part of this program of work asbestos soffits have been identified and require safe removal. The application relates to support for the asbestos removal, which the committee highlights is vital to the project but could not have been foreseen.

The Gerrards Cross Fun Run Committee were requesting £1000 as a contribution towards the purchase of medals and trophies for the Fun Run. The PAG noted that the event encourages pride and belonging in the community and encourages all ages to participate in exercise.

Having considered the requests, the PAG were of the opinion that Dorney Village Hall and Gerrards Cross Fun Run 2014 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. Dorney Village Hall to be allocated £5580 to support the removal of asbestos as part of a larger refurbishment and replacement of roof, electrics and drainage.
2. Gerrards Cross Fun Run to be allocated £1000 as a contribution towards the purchase of medals and trophies.

**36. THE LAURELS AT FARNHAM PARK PLAYING FIELDS**

The PAG received a report which set out possible options regarding the future use of the Trust owned property known as The Laurels at Farnham Park Playing Fields.

One of the key aims of the Council's Asset Management Plan was to generate income for the authority by maximising income from property and by continuing to review the asset holdings to determine whether an asset should be disposed of to generate capital receipts. Bearing this in mind, the following four options were being explored with regard to The Laurels:

1. Re let as a tied accommodation to a member of staff.
2. Lease to a Housing Association.
3. Lease to an existing Sports Club on the park for extra space.
4. Demolish the existing building and relocate footprint (subject to planning) to alternative location on the perimeter of the park to either sell as a housing site or redevelop and sell

The PAG were advised that with regards to option 1, there had been no interest from any member of staff as of yet.

The PAG noted the contents of the report and that a further report would be presented to the PAG when the options have been developed and costed in discussion with the new General Manager who will ultimately be responsible for all the income and expenditure costs for the Playing Fields.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**37. DOG FOULING**

Following a request from the PAG at the last meeting, the PAG received a briefing note on the issue of tackling dog fouling in the District.

During the discussion which followed, a particular concern was raised on the prevalence of dog fouling on sports fields. The PAG noted that if a sports field was the responsibility of the Council, extra clear ups could be arranged. However, if the sports field was owned privately, it was the responsibility of the land owner to look after the field.

Having noted the successful campaign led by Chiltern District Council to reduce dog fouling, the PAG asked that consideration be given as to whether a similar campaign could be run in South Bucks. A suggestion was also made to share the cost of a dog warden with Chiltern District Council.

A proposal was put forward that the Environmental Health Team could attend community events to publicise the issue of dog fouling. The PAG also recognised the important role that schools and parish councils have in reducing dog fouling by raising awareness. It was suggested that the posters, which encourage dog owners to be responsible, should be made available to all the parish councils in the District.

In response to a query, the PAG were advised that the possibility of loaning the stencil spray to parish councils could be looked into.

The PAG were advised that a report would be going to the next Health and Housing PAG on options for tackling dog fouling. The suggestions made by the Community PAG would be incorporated into this report for consideration by the Health and Housing PAG.

**RESOLVED** that the briefing note be noted.

**38. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE SERVICES**

A report titled 'Changes to the definition of Domestic Violence, and New Services' was presented at the Community Policy Advisory Group on 18th June. Following this, Members requested that an additional report be compiled to provide further detail on existing support and services.

The PAG noted the range of existing support and services which were available to victims of domestic violence and abuse including refuges, outreach work, the Freedom Programme and the

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Sanctuary Scheme. The report also set out services which work with the perpetrator to help change their behaviour such as Substance Misuse Service and the Fresh Start Perpetrator Programme.

The PAG were advised that reducing domestic violence through supporting the delivery of appropriate interventions assists the Council in preventing homelessness, anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder.

Members were invited to contact the Community Safety Manager if they would like more detail of the services that were covered in the report.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### 39. **INSPIRING A GENERATION LEGACY PLAN YEAR 1 UPDATE**

The PAG received a report which provided Members with an update on Year 1 of the Inspiring a Generation Legacy Plan.

The PAG noted the various achievements in Year 1 which have increased community engagement by enhancing community spirit through sports and have improved the health and wellbeing of residents through increased sports participation.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### 40. **OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

None received.

### 41. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

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

#### Minutes

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

The Part II minutes of the meeting of the PAG held on 11 November 2013 were received.

#### Portfolio Holder Budgets 2014/15

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

In connection with minute 33 , following the comments of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder approved for submission to the Cabinet the proposed fees and charges for 2014/15 for the Community Portfolio.

#### Farnham Charitable Trust Budgets 2014/2015

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

In connection with minute 34, following the comments of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder approved for submission to the Cabinet the proposed fees and charges in respect of Farnham Charitable Trust.

The meeting terminated at 7.36 pm