

Committee, Group or Sub Group : Community Enhancement Group

Meeting Date & Venue: 20th January 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Report Author: Adele Sharp - Chairman

Report

Present were: AS, PR, CB, SM.

Apologies: JP, HM, SLR

* The minutes of November 2020 were accepted.

* Matters arising not on the agenda - none

1. Parade disabled public toilet –

SM & SLR were able to provide another quotation each for the cleaning.

As time was of the essence and work still needed to be done to the disabled toilet, the Finance & Strategy group decided to continue for another year as is (Paxman's providing opening and cleaning of the Bell Lane toilets only).

Tasks to do.

a. The lease / rental of disabled toilet site – KCC – needs to be clarified. Based on how KCC lease the Library site to MBC for a peppercorn rate, we do not foresee a major financial burden. Even the legal cost should be straightforward and minimal.

Action: Ask office to enquire about lease and also how to get a key for us to be able to gain access.

b. We also need to install the lock to be able to use a Radar key – Ironmonger direct quote £203 for a set plus the installation cost. We suggest Poyntell would be able to do this.

Action: Ask office to obtain a quotation for supply and installation.

c. The external decoration / repairs will be done when PR supervises the library decoration / repairs in the Spring. There are some small internal repairs to do as well, (hopefully also by volunteers), which we know more about [when 1a](#) has been actioned. Note - no cost to us for the £5 key as disabled users possess their own.

d. Cleaning. Financial implication - It remains the opinion of the group that a local company to provide this makes the most sense, but we also have an obligation to suggest best value for money.

There is no need to quote opening and closing for the disabled toilet, only for cleaning. Paxmans, as our current provider and a local business for the Bell Lane toilets, would be our preferred provider. The addition of the Parade disabled toilet would only require cleaning, no open and close. It makes sense to have one provider for both sites. We were, however disappointed at the Paxman quotation – seemed a lot.

Note - £3000 legal and maintenance costs are in the budget for next year.

It was suggested that SPC could ask if the SPC Caretaker could check & clean the disabled toilet 3 times a week (MWF) for remuneration of course. Extra responsibility – 1 hour a week?

Action: Ask office if that's something they could run by the caretaker.

2. Planters – GSG been tidied up and hopefully nice for Spring Parade, one outside chip shop too. Planters to go by the Gateway signs are being made by by Cllr Bradley Garton all in line with Covid restrictions, (North by Railway Bridge like chip shop one. East and West. The South / Cranbrook road one – we need to wait for update on roads)

Action: None – in hand

3. Wimpy Field - CB has designed the new access gate. 1 Quotations come in for gate & grass crete. Action: Awaiting 2 other quotations.

4. Surrenden Field

a - Pavilion – Covid restrictions have delayed research.

The idea so far is a proper build (expensive), Wooden (creates maintenance issues), Container style building with kitchen toilets windows etc (preferred) with separate toilet block (£12,000) – getting quotations.

SM proposed a possible building that is redundant that might be suitable.

PR is in the process of finalising the ideas around this and will send round when done.

Keen to have something long lasting, low maintenance , properly functional and so on.

Community Events team happy to contribute.

Action: discuss at next meeting when we have more information.

b - Paths –

The office is getting other quotations in for path so it can go to full council & 106 application.

200mm depth on quotation 1.4 m wide 1.5 inc edging play park to Bathurst / Thatcher Rd £14,380 + VAT Whites Landscaping (previous contractors)

CB will continue to look into costs of a running track and possible other locations such as Jubilee Field.

Action: Recommend that we ask SPC to apply for the 106 money.

c - Adult outdoor gym /exercise eqpt. There was discussion about where this could be located in order to be able to still use the field for other events. Researching what is used elsewhere. Some at Redrow development site, felt slightly odd positioning as spread out.

Action: CB looking into funding – in hand.

d – WW1 commemorative bench. –

The bench, currently stored in the pavilion, will be installed by the community Events Group. Now SPC have the lease on Surrenden Field the proposal is for it to be installed at the Northern end in the middle (Thatcher Road end).

Action: Ask the clerk to put before SPC next meeting.

4. Telephone box – delayed due to Covid.

PR found someone from BT to be able to repair the glass panels. Will also need a repaint. In hand. PR's BT contact has provided glass to install as well as signage – decided to use as a template to change "Telephone" to "Staplehurst". Ready to do as soon as restrictions permit. It will be repainted too. Discussion to move to parade – would incur planning permission costs and delays and costs to resite. Decided it looks

good where it is, in a visible spot. Leave in situ to avoid movement costs and planning permission.

Still need to decide what will go in there. Ideas so far are to offer to local groups – WI, Horticultural – and businesses – Made in Kent – to take over for a week or two.

Plant exchange as in Biddenden where green fingered folk put their surplus seeds and seedlings to exchange.

Books may be dodgy as it may become a dumping ground! (see hub)

5. A.O.B.

* Notes the Marden Road / Jeffrey Close coping stones on wall around surface water tank has been repaired - MBC?

* Suggested planting the grass area there – GSG?

The meeting ended at 8:30pm.

Date & Venue of next meeting: 7pm Thursday 25th February 2021, zoom

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp

PR Paddy Riordan

HM Helen Miller

JP John Perry

CB Colin Bowden

SM Simon McNeill

SLR Sam Lain-Rose