

**SCENic - Staplehurst Community Enhancement New Ideas Committee - formerly
Community Enhancement Group, note we are a group not committee.**

Thursday 30th November 2023 at West Hall, Community Centre

Present:

Invited for discussion item only – Dee Fry (DF) and Mandy Kayley (MK) representing SCEG
Eric Hotson (EH), Paddy Riordan (PR). Jose Castro (JC) Adele Hayden Sharp (AHS)(Chair), Ani
Martin (AM)

Apologies:

Catherine Farragher and John Perry

Chair welcomed DF and MK to the meeting to discuss the Surrenden Field Pavilion (SFP)

Agree minutes of 2nd October 2023

Minutes agreed by as an accurate account of proceedings.

Matters Arising:

Contractor in place to complete brickwork repairs at The Parade and has indicated that this work will be completed in the new year.

Surrenden Field Pavilion – Informal discussion with SCEG representative

- SCEG currently stores equipment in the pavilion – approximate space required is equivalent to a garage or container unit.
- Discussion re ideas for replacing pavilion, with the possibility of upgrading to provide kitchen and extra toilet facilities. Chair emphasised that this project was very much still in the discussion stages, but that SCEG's input was important
- Chair had prepared photos and diagrams of possible replacement steel framed units and her impressions of an example interior. Provision of several toilets, which would be subject to drainage investigation to determine viability.
- Further discussion around possible future provision of catering/ice cream kiosk/hot and cold drinks etc which would enhance field events organised by SCEG, currently around 4 per year.

AGREED ACTION: Once a decision and timeframe has been made re replacement of the pavilion, SCEG would need to find alternative storage for its equipment during the build.

- **PR to enquire costs of hiring a container unit at Slaney Farm.**
- Further ideas for use of the pavilion would be welcomed.
- DF and MK left the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Youth Club Pavilion (YCP)

- AHS believes YC and SF Pavilions projects should be considered in conjunction with each other.
 - Consideration given to the following points:
- PR stated that once the electrical works have been completed (cost £2K), reports from professionals have indicated that no other works are needed immediately before the YC can re-open.
- **ACTION: PR will apply immediately for funding via the Rural England Prosperity Fund and MBC CIL application.**
- EH noted that the Building Inspector/Building Control Officer has reported the YC to be a low risk building, with recommended remedial costs amounting to circa £25K.
- The Men's Shed members will be suitably qualified to carry out many of the repairs and were keen to volunteer. Public liability cover is in place for repair work to be undertaken.
- **AGREED ACTION: To establish a 5-year action plan for the YC.**
- Discussion re refurbishment of toilets, including achieving compliance for disabled toilet.
- Bulge in ceiling to be rectified by replacing a section of plasterboard.
- **AGREED ACTION: Overriding importance of safety of all users of the YC – ensure that insurance company agrees that works undertaken allow the building to reopen.**
- **£10K of CIL money to be allocated immediately to allow YC to re-open at the earliest opportunity.**
- **AGREED ACTION: Group to re-scrutinize reports (surveyor/building control/electrical/fire) to ensure our assumptions are correct. Also to resolve fire door issue and gain further advice as to whether partition between kitchen and hall should be removed.**
- **DECISION FOR RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL: Subject to the completion of the above actions and assurance of compliance from insurance company, an action plan for continuing maintenance and improvement will be created to ensure a 5-year life span of the YC, funded via CIL monies.**
- PR reiterated the vital importance of the YC re-opening as soon as possible, as it has been promoted as a model of excellence within Kent.

2. Surrenden Field Pavilion (SFP)

- Group recommend that SFP project goes ahead, as money is available.
- Discussion re suitability of a steel-framed building as per photos shown by AHS.
- Design, material type and costings to be researched.
- Possible uses of a refurbished pavilion to be investigated.
- **ACTION: PR to arrange a site visit with construction company to discuss options.**

- 3. D Day 80th Anniversary Memorial and Memorial Tree – item deferred**
- 4. Telephone Box**
 - PR suggested that the phone box might be used to house a defibrillator.
 - **ACTION: Ask Mel Alesi to advise on likely costs and user training. Report back to next meeting.**
- 5. Christmas tree chipping event at Parade on 6th January,**
 - Neil Jackson to carry this out in memory of Jon Grimwood. Voluntary donations to Heart of Kent Hospice.
- 6. AOB**
 - Planter repair at The Parade – wood has been ordered and repair will take place shortly.
- 7. Next meeting – Thursday 11th January at 7.30pm in West Hall.**