

17 SEPTEMBER 2013

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Tuesday, 17 September 2013.

p Cllr Mrs P Jackman (Chairman)
p Cllr S P Davies (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

ap J E Binns
ap D A Britton
p Mrs P J Lovelace
p B D Lucas

Councillors:

p A D O'Sullivan
p N S Penman
ap D J Russell
p M S Wade

In Attendance:

Councillor:

Mrs D M Brooks (Portfolio Holder, Health & Leisure)
Mrs S Bennison
Mrs C Ward

Also in Attendance:

Mr Paul Woodroof – Tenants' Representative

Officers Attending:

Mrs J Bailey, M Devine, J Rickard and Ms M Stephens, and for part of the meeting, C Elliot, A Groom, D Groom and Mrs N Luddington.

13. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2013 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with an agenda item.

15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

16. CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND HOW VIABILITY ARGUMENTS ARE ADDRESSED (REPORT A)

The Panel considered a report that analysed the issues associated with current problems with the collection of developers' contributions where the developer made a case that the development would not be viable should some or all of the normally required contributions be paid.

The Panel was advised that this Council always undertook a separate evaluation of a planning proposal, not relying on the figures provided by the developer. They used the residual value approach that was a well-established methodology for assessing a number of valuation scenarios, and particularly suited to the evaluation of the appropriate level of financial contributions. It was now accepted practice that, in the current economic climate, in order to cover a reasonable risk associated with a development, the developer should look to achieve a profit margin of 20%. A profit margin of 15% was deemed to be marginal by banks and other sources of finance.

The Panel discussed the various scenarios set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Having discussed the methodology applied, the Panel agreed with the view of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel which had also examined this issue at their meeting on 12 September, that there would not be any benefit in convening a task and finish working group to explore this issue further at this stage.

Members briefly discussed the growing need for affordable housing in the District and the tough decisions the Council would need to make in the foreseeable future regarding the level of building required to satisfy demand and the most appropriate locations for development.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the information contained in the report be noted; and
- (b) That a Task & Finish Group not be established at this stage.

Action: Chris Elliot/Andy Groom

17. HEALTH AND LEISURE CENTRES AND WELL BEING - A SCOPING PAPER (REPORT B)

The Panel considered a scoping paper developed to assist the Panel in setting out its review of how the Health and Leisure Centres were contributing to the wellbeing of the district which would be examined at the Panel's meeting in January 2014.

There were five Health and Leisure Centres in the District – Applemore, Lymington, New Milton, Ringwood and Totton. All were joint provision sites with the centre being based at a host school or college as the key partner.

The number of visits to the Health and Leisure Centres had increased over the last few years from 1.4m visits in 2010/11 to 1.6m visits in 2012/13. Likewise membership of the gyms had increased by 20% since 2010 with membership currently at 6100. The Swim Academies also now had 4475 children learning to swim on a weekly basis, an increase of 16% over the last 3 years. All the centres had strong links with improving wellbeing and health within their local communities.

There was a general discussion during which the following points were raised: -

- It was commented that whilst there had been significant investment in Health and Leisure Centres over recent years, it remained to be seen whether they had the necessary capacity to keep up with population increase and demand in general. Members felt that this issue should be explored in more detail.
- The Health and Leisure Centres offered a vast array of well-being programmes such as cardiac services, diabetes clinics etc. Thanks to the close partnership work between centre staff and colleagues within the NHS these programmes were working well. Members discussed the possibility of extending these types of programmes including increasing services to the community, particularly those vulnerable members of society.
- Members discussed the benefits of inviting the Council's Healthy Living Coordinator to the next meeting to explain the practical delivery of wellbeing programmes currently run in the centres and discuss the current working relationship with colleagues in the health sector.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the Council's Healthy Living Coordinator be invited attend the next meeting of the Panel; and
- (c) That the Panel discuss further ways of managing capacity issues at the Health and Leisure Centres at its meeting in January 2014.

Action: Martin Devine

18. DIBDEN GOLF CENTRE TASK & FINISH GROUP (REPORT C)

The Panel considered a progress report from the Dibden Golf Centre Task & Finish Group.

Members were pleased to note that the Council had a good working relationship with Mytime Active. It was also positive to note that Mytime Active had been progressing well with their programme of changes and improvements to the golf centre, and that positive reports had been received from staff and users.

RESOLVED:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

19. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' UPDATES

The Portfolio Holder for Health & Leisure reported that she would shortly be responding to Hampshire County Council's consultation on the closure of Cranleigh Paddock dementia unit, when she would advise of her strong opposition to the proposal.

20. WORK PROGRAMME (REPORT D)

The Panel considered their future work programme as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

The Panel also received a progress report from the Chairman of the Night Shelter Task & Finish Group including:-

- The Task and Finish Group had considered an information report from the Housing Needs Team and had met with Night Stop New Forest to obtain a more detailed understanding of rough sleeping issues in the district.
- The Task and Finish Group had made a request to Night Stop to consider developing a proposal for a 'Night Stop Plus' scheme for older homeless people.
- Night Stop New Forest had subsequently submitted a proposal for development funding to the SE Regional Rough Sleeper's Consortium which had access to Government funds to tackle rough sleeping. The Consortium would meet on the 18 September to consider the proposal.

The Health and Policy Development Manager explained that a joint Task & Finish Group had been established at the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 12 September to examine the number of those killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents in the District and had requested that a member of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel be nominated to serve on this group. The Panel agreed that Cllr Mrs Jackman serve as this Panel's representative on the Task & Finish Group.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Panel's work programme set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes be agreed;
- (b) That the update on the progress of the Night Shelter Task & Finish Group be noted; and
- (c) That Cllr Mrs Jackman be nominated to serve as this Panel's representative on the Killed and Seriously Injured Task & Finish Working Group.

21. DATES OF MEETINGS 2014/2015

RESOLVED:

That the Panel meets on the following dates (all Tuesdays at 6.00 p.m.) in 2014/15:-

17 June 2014
16 September 2014
18 November 2014
20 January 2015
17 March 2015

CHAIRMAN

Attachment: Minute 20 – Appendix 1

COMSP170913

Work Programme 2013/14

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	TIMING/UPDATE ON PROGRESS
Housing			
Proposal for Housing Development under the New Housing Strategy	To confirm direction of travel as directed by the project board.	Progress report to Panel	November 2013
Empty Homes	To review the number of empty homes within the District and the progress of Housing Officers in bringing them back into use	Report	January 2014
Changes to the benefits system/spare room subsidy and universal credit	To examine how the changes to the benefits system/spare room subsidy has impacted on low income families and housing tenants. Same for universal credit.	Possible joint meeting with the Corporate Overview Panel. Initial officer report to Panel then detailed report in 18 months examining universal credit/Task & Finish Group	March 2014 (initial investigation) September 2014 (to examine universal credit)
Tenancy and Allocation Policies	Consider the impact of the policies	Report to Panel	January 2015
Crime and Disorder			
Drug & Alcohol and its relation to Crime and Disorder	To investigate drug & alcohol misuse in the District and the impact on crime & disorder levels in the New Forest	Presentation from the Drugs Officer. Open meeting to all members of the Council	November 2013
Reoffending Rates in the District	To examine strategies to reduce reoffending rates in the District	Report	March 2014
Public Health			
Emergency Planning/Safety Advisory Group	To examine the Council's statutory duties in relation to emergency planning and the remit of Safety Advisory Groups	Joint meeting with the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel	TBC
Children and Young People			
Child poverty and the provision for children and young people	To examine child poverty and deprivation in the New Forest and the services available for young people in the District	Report with discussions with specialists	January 2014

Leisure			
Review of Health & Leisure Centres	Examine how well the centres are contributing to the wellbeing of the District	Report with discussion with Healthy Living Coordinator/external agencies	January 2014
Health			
Sexual Health Services in the New Forest	To investigate sexual health in the New Forest including prevalence rates, treatments and access to services	Panel report to include views of Health and Wellbeing Board and discussion with Public Health Officer	November 2013

CURRENT TASK & FINISH GROUPS

Dibden Golf Centre

Night Shelter