

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 4 APRIL 2016 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Apel, P M Budge, P Evans, Galloway, J French, Macey and Sharp
- EX-OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor P Budge)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Tupper)
Councillors Dignum and Kilby
- ALSO PRESENT : Councillors T French and Plowman
PC Dave Phillips - Sussex Police
Brenda Gay - Friends of Ravenna
Graham Pound - Friends of Valletta
- ABSENT : Councillor Holman
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk and Administration Manager

52 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings held on 25 January and 15 February 2016, having been printed and circulated, were submitted and the Chairman was authorised to sign the same as a correct record.

53 POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

(a) General Update for Sussex Police

PC Dave Phillips of Sussex Police explained how the recent restructure would now enable the 'pooling' resources from other areas to help deter crime in the district; the districts of Chichester and Arun were now under one Chief Inspector. The pooling of resources would have an effect on Neighbourhood policing and other agencies would be expected to take on more responsibility.

The Committee were advised of several covert operations that had been carried out in the City.

(b) Community Wardens

Reports had been received from the Community Wardens representing the West and East Wards of the City and circulated to all members.

Chichester District Council's Communities Interventions Manager, Pam Bushby, had advised in a report that the South Ward Community Warden was continuing his work with Chichester Foyer and monitoring issues at the Canal and that all the Community Wardens were receiving training around PREVENT (anti-radicalisation, Child Sexual Exploitation and On-line Safety).

54 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF FRIENDS OF CHARTRES AND RAVENNA

(a) Friends of Chartres

No report had been received from the Friends of Chartres. However Mr John Wilton, who was attending the meeting as a member of the public, was invited to give an update on the Friends of Chartres.

Post Meeting Note : The Friends of Chartres report was received after the meeting and has been emailed to all members.

(b) Friends of Ravenna

The Friends of Ravenna report had been circulated to all members and noted.

(c) Friends of Valletta

The Friends of Valletta report had been circulated to all members and noted.

55 VISION ZERO

Councillor Sharp gave a presentation on ‘Vision Zero’ an initiative to encourage road users and pedestrians to observe and respect each other. ‘Chichester Vision Zero’ would be launched later in the year. Improvements to Northgate and Southgate areas of the City were given as examples of where physical separation of road users could be achieved. The Committee supported the aspirations of ‘Vision Zero’ and thanked Councillor Sharp for this presentation.

56 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD SAFETY FRAMEWORK AND RELATED ISSUES

The Committee noted the West Sussex County Council Road Safety Framework and Related Issues Consultation was being prepared and that individual members could submit their comments in due course.

57 CLOSURE OF CHICHESTER COURTS

The Town Clerk explained that the City Council’s comments on the closure of the Chichester Courts had been submitted to the Ministry of Justice. The meeting held on 14 March 2016 where representatives from the legal profession had been invited to give a presentation had been very interesting and informative. Both the Leaders of the West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council had written independently to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State on the closure of the Courts, as had Andrew Tyrie, MP.

The Town Clerk had met with local solicitors, Owen Kenny Partnership, and it was felt that a public meeting on the closure of the Chichester Courts should be held in late April/early May. The Town Clerk was awaiting guidance from the solicitors about the exact date and this could be pursued.

The Committee discussed this matter and it was RESOLVED that the Mayor write a letter to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State outlining the City Council’s concerns on the proposed closure. It was noted that maybe other areas in the City could be used as Courts.

58 CONSULTATION REGARDING THE CITY CENTRE

The Town Clerk explained that Chichester District Council were undertaking a consultation on reviewing powers contained in the recent Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 including the use of 'Public Spaces Protection Orders' or PSPOs and comments on the consultation were to be submitted by 18 March 2016; all members had been emailed this information.

Councillor Dignum advised that the District Council Cabinet meeting on 12 April 2016 would be discussing this matter and deciding whether to go out to consultation.

Councillor Kilby left the meeting.

59 GALA 2016

The Town Clerk and Administration Manager said that 64 Gala Application Packs had been sent out (32 schools and 32 previous participants) and so far 10 expressions of interest had been received but only 2 completed application forms had been received. The closing date for applications was Tuesday 3 May 2016. The Town Clerk explained that there would be another publicity push for the Gala via the Observer (the Gala was already advertised on the City Council's website, noticeboards, Facebook, etc.)

60 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

The Administration Manager explained that the Tourist Information Centre had supplied a leaflet rack and would be responsible for keeping it updated. There had been no progress on a Touch Screen being installed at the Council House. Lighting in the foyer area needed to be improved and this had been investigated.

61 OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATION

(i) St Wilfrid's Parish Hall Trust

To note that Mr Clive Goodyear will be the City Council's representative on St. Wilfrid's Parish Hall Trust for a four-year term.

(ii) Chichester Business Improvement District (BID) Annual General Meeting

The Committee noted that the BID Annual General Meeting would be held on Thursday 28 April 2016 between 3.45pm and 6.00pm at Edes House, West Street, Chichester and would be attended by the City Council's representative, Councillor Peter Evans.

62 CHICHESTER IN BLOOM

(i) City Centre Floral Displays and improvements to other landscaped areas in the City

The Administration Manager advised that Ferring Nurseries quotation for the Summer 2016 and Winter 2017 floral displays in the City Centre had been received in the sum of £29,600.71; this included the Cathedral Beds.

A separate quote had been requested for re-installing baskets on the public conveniences in Market Avenue and Tower Street; the cost was £771.77. The baskets were removed when Chichester District Council withdrew their contribution towards the floral displays in the City Centre however as both these places were in areas of the City that visitors would visit, consideration should be given to re-installing the baskets. The Committee agreed to the re-installation of half-baskets on the public conveniences in Market Avenue and Tower Street.

Also a separate quote had been requested for a Winter 2017 display in St Richard's Walk as discussions with Chichester Cathedral had indicated that there was the possibility for the City Council to take on the responsibility of this area from Autumn 2016. The cost would be £4,740 and this could be considered as a public realm project and be funded from the allocated money for such projects.

The Committee were also advised that West Sussex County Council were willing to enter into a Licence Agreement with the City Council to maintain the landscaped area at the Northgate Subway (North side only). West Sussex County Council were arranging for this area to be cleared of shrubbery and generally tidied up at the end of April 2016.

Also Westgate Residents Association were keen to improve Westgate and the County Council were again willing to enter into a Licence Agreement with the City Council to maintain this area. A meeting was arranged to meet with the Westgate Residents and West Sussex County Council on 11 April 2016 to discuss this matter further.

The City Council would not be contributing financially to these projects; the only costs incurred would be staff costs.

There were areas at Southgate and Eastgate also being investigated as these projects would enhance the areas and all contribute toward Chichester Vision and improving the public realm in the City.

(ii) Schools Competition

The Mayoral/Administrative Assistant's report had been circulated with the Agenda to all members. The report outlined that a meeting had taken place with representatives from schools due to the low number of entrants in the 2015 competition. The overall opinion of those members at the meeting was that the competition should continue in the same format. However, the Mayoral visit to each school to present the awards had been warmly welcomed by the schools and would therefore be repeated in 2016.

It was RESOLVED that the City Council's School Competition continue in the same format as previous years with the exception that the awards are presented by the Mayor at individual school assemblies.

63 MICK'S MARCH - 9 SEPTEMBER TO 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

The Committee were asked to consider a request to support 'Mick's March' as a commemoration of Mick Shone's life and achievements. It was felt that this was a matter for individual Councillors to decide upon.

64 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

- Reports from Friends of Chartres & Ravenna & Valletta
- Closure of Chichester Courts

The meeting ended at 7.20pm.