
PLAY AREA IN CHORLEYWOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 7th JANUARY 2015**MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE**

Chairman: * Cllr Barbara Green

Members: * Cllr Alison Preedy
* Cllr Martin Trevett
Cllr Steve Watkins (Vice Chairman)
* Substitute Cllr Tony Edwards
* Michael Hyde - Friends of the Common
* Maria Larkin – Chorleywood Residents Association
* David Walker - Friends of the Chorleywood House Estate
* Keith Williams - TRDC
* Simone Tyson Chorleywood Mums

*Denotes members present

14/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Steve Watkins, Cllr Tony Edwards acted as his substitute.

14/09 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that the Terms of reference attached to the minutes did not reflect the fact that each group had been allowed to nominate two substitutes. This has been addressed and a revised Terms of Reference is attached.

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

14/10 ACTION PLAN

It was agreed that the site visits had been useful, and all members agreed with the comments listed on the criteria sheets. Additional comments were received from Michael Hyde and Maria Larkin, to be incorporated into the documents. The Chairman stated that the number of sites should be whittled down with sites that were totally unsuitable being taken out of the process at an early stage. Ideally a list of four sites should be chosen for further investigation. The chosen sites would then be put forward for more in-depth advice from relevant professionals.

FOCC asked that three more sites be added to the list:-

- The Swillett
- Grovewood
- The triangle at The Clump

Other areas that were suggested were in Chorleywood House Grounds near the Football Pitches. However it was noted that this area had already been refused (for additional football pitches) by the Planning Inspectorate due to the ecology of the area.

It was noted that TRDC's remit was to create a **new** play area site for Chorleywood and therefore any refurbishment of the Swillet would not fit TRDC's brief. It was therefore decided to discount the Swillet from consideration.

It was agreed that site visits to The Clump Triangle and Grovewood would take place after this meeting.

There was some debate on the need for Members of this committee to rank each site on each of the criteria in the site summaries. However, it was felt this was a very difficult task which could take up all of the committee's time and that it was more appropriate at this stage to take a common-sense approach to selection. Assessing and weighting the different criteria would be something that (we hope) the professional advisers would be more able to do. Ultimately it was agreed that a number of sites could be discounted which would reduce the final number of sites for outside professional bodies to consider.

It was agreed by a majority decision to discount Carpenters Wood – due to the nature of the site (ancient woodland) and the fact that oversight is poor.

Some wished to discount Warings Field as this area also has poor oversight. However the Chairman seconded by Cllr Keith Watkins felt that this should remain for further consideration at this stage.

The group discussed the Gun Dell on the Common; some had concerns with access, although CRA felt that this would be an ideal site using the natural landscaping as a feature. The Clerk advised that the Gun Dell was now considered an historic feature on the Common and was also on Stewardship Land which would make it more difficult obtaining permission under the Section 38. Keith William also stated – having confirmed that TRDC would be responsible for maintenance – that the area would be very difficult to maintain. With all these factors in mind, the Committee unanimously agreed to discount the Gun Dell from the deliberations.

It was confirmed however that this feature would be included in the Nature Trail as part of the historical social history and as a natural untouched play space.

It was agreed that the Chorleywood House Grounds site would remain on the list, and it was noted that significant progress had been made with HCC in providing a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Common Road and the A404.

Areas 13 and 15 were also to be considered further, as both sites had advantages and disadvantages which would need further investigation.

The list of sites originally visited therefore read as follows

- Carpenters Wood and the Gun Dell – discounted but should be included in any informal play planning.
- Chorleywood House Grounds, Warings Field, Area 13 on the Common, & Area 15 on the Common should be considered further for a formal play area.

It was noted that The Clump Triangle and Grovewood would be considered after site visits had been undertaken.

The Chairman agreed to draft briefs for each of the three experts to use on each site. These would include,

The Police, CMS (or similar body), Play specialists (TRDC Officers)

It was also suggested that later in the process, it may be wise to ask for a pre-determination from the Planning Officers.

CRA suggested that everyone should look at a film created by The Wild Network for Play England which explored natural play and re-engagement with nature. Information can be found at the link below.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/our-work/campaigns/the-wild-network.aspx>

It was noted that it was unlikely that a full report could be ready for the Parish Full Council on 10th February, but that an Extra-Ordinary meeting could be called to discuss this one issue once all the information is gathered. In the meantime the Clerk agreed to forward the minutes to all Council members to keep them up to date with the work of the Advisory Committee.

14/11 TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was called for 19th January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

14/12 CLOSURE

The Meeting, having commenced at 10.05 am closed at 11.45 am

14/13 SUMMARY OF SITE VISITS FOLLOWING THE MEETING

The committee visited The Clump Triangle and Grovewood and completed a criteria summary for both. It was agreed at the end of the visit by a majority vote that The Clump Triangle would be discounted from further consideration. However, all were impressed with Grovewood and agreed it should be on our final list.

These minutes have been checked and signed by the Chairman

SignedAgreed by email..... Date07.01.2015.....

These minutes were agreed as a true and correct record at the Advisory Committee meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Signed..... Date.....

Appendix 1

PLAY AREA IN CHORLEYWOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Play Area in Chorleywood Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Full Council.

The Advisory Committee is charged with the investigation of all matters pertaining to looking at all possible sites in Chorleywood for both formal and informal play equipment.

These will include but not be confined to, possible sites, areas within those sites, environmental issues, planning, and other legal matters.

Where needed, the Advisory Committee will seek advice from Parish Rangers, from external sources such as CMS, Three Rivers District Council, the Planning Authority, DEFRA, Natural England, the Police Authority and any other appropriate source.

The Advisory Committee is not a decision-making body but will report to the Full Parish Council. The Advisory Committee does not hold a budget and cannot approve any expenditure.

The Advisory Committee shall consist of nine members:

Four Parish Council nominees one each of the following Friends of Chorleywood Common, Friends of Chorleywood House Estate, Chorleywood Residents Association, Chorleywood Mums and a District Councillor.

Up to two nominated substitute will be allowed for each group and can attend all meetings as an observer.

It shall elect from its members a Chairman and an officer of the Council who shall keep the Minutes, conduct correspondence and prepare reports for the Council meetings.

A quorum shall consist of seven members including at least one member from each group being present. In the event of absence from meetings, substitutions will be permitted from an approved list.

It is anticipated that this committee will complete its deliberations by early 2015 and that they will present their proposals to Council soon after.