
PLAY AREA IN CHORLEYWOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 15th OCTOBER 2015

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Cllr Barbara Green

Members: Cllr Alison Preedy

* Substitute Cllr Tony Edwards

* Cllr Martin Trevett

Cllr Steve Watkins (Vice Chairman)

* Substitute Cllr Jane White

* Michael Hyde - Friends of the Common

* Maria Larkin – Chorleywood Residents Association

* David Walker - Friends of the Chorleywood House Estate

Cllr Chris Lloyd - TRDC

No Substitute

* Simone Tyson Chorleywood Mums

* David Hiddleston – Friends of Grovewood

*Denotes members present

Officers in Attendance: Clerk to the Council Yonne Merritt
Clerk Abbots Langley Parish Council Tim Perkins

Also in attendance: Alison Rubens, Myfanwy Ronchetti.

Secretaries Note: Due to the nature of the meeting, these notes are more of a verbatim report than is usual for minutes of a committee meeting. It has been done this way to properly record all the views expressed and statements made and to give all Councillors the background to the debate and how decisions were reached.

15/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Alison Preedy (substitute Cllr Tony Edwards present) Steve Watkins (Substitute Cllr Jane White) and Chris Lloyd.

15/07 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Waitley- Smith wished to confirm that he was familiar with Chorleywood Common. Following this and the amendment at Full Council the minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

15/08 OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The Chairman stated that in the first instance she wished to establish that everyone agreed there was a need for a play area as she stated that some members of FOCC had suggested that they did not think there was a need for a play area in Chorleywood. She felt that there was no place for members of this advisory group who were not committed to finding a suitable site. The obesity data for reception children shows significant problems with obesity across Three Rivers.

Michael Hyde (MH) asked the Chairman to expand on her statement – as they had never stated they were not in favour of a play area they were concerned only about the location of such an area.

Martin Trevett (MT) stated that TRDC have established that a need exists for an additional play area in CW. He went on to say It will happen even without the approval of the Parish Council.

David Walker stated that his groups' concerns were about the type of play area TRDC were likely to provide as they did not want concrete and swings.

Simone Tyson (ST) stated that CW Mums were in favour of bespoke, natural, woodland type play areas as detailed within her report.

David Walker (DW) advised that FOCWHE has not submitted a detailed report, but wished to read out a statement which gives the views of their members. (Appendix 1)

15/09 DOCUMENT CHECK

The Chairman went through the document list to ensure that everyone had copies of everything. Once this was established she stated that she did not feel there was need for any more reports as there was probably sufficient data now received to make a decision.

15/10 IDENTIFYING MAIN ISSUES

(ST) Wanted to establish if groups should be lobbying as there was an article from FoCC in the Watford Observer and it was inappropriate that some groups were communicating with the press and others were not.

(DW) Suggested that the points of view of different interest groups have been in the public domain for some time, with for example, CRA writing articles in the Chorleywood Magazines.

(BG) Advised that the issue of enabling public access had been discussed at full Council and it was agreed that the advisory group meetings should continue to be private, to enable open discussion amongst its members. But the Council had agreed that the reports and minutes of the advisory group should be in the public domain, and therefore it should follow that different interest groups could make their opinions known to the public via Facebook, newspapers, etc.

The Clerk advised that she had already received significant amounts of correspondence, and would be happy to set up a file of people's views. However it would not be possible to reply to all the letters individually, although they would be acknowledged and filed for Councillors to read.

Martin Trevett (MT) stated that the Parish Councillors should be careful not to voice an opinion should they reply to any correspondence so they are not accused of predetermination.

David Hiddleston (DH) stated that the Watford Observer had approached FoGW, but that they had declined to comment.

Moving on, the Chairman suggested that trying to rank sites will be difficult.

Tony Edwards (TE) was concerned about the lack of clarity regarding where TRDC felt that the play area should be. Using the old TRDC wards the TRDC report stated that the majority of Chorleywood's population is in CW East. In 11/2014. TRDC report highlighted lack of play area provision in CW East. All the areas being discussed were in Chorleywood West.

(ST) advised that the report discussed proximity of play areas and the walking catchment to a play area. People living in CW East were nearer and more likely to use sites available in Rickmansworth.

(MT) Agreed, stating that TRDC were interested in the Chorleywood Wards, and not the Chorleywood Parish as a whole.

(MH) Stated that according to the TRDC report there were 575 children within the LSOA (Lower Super Output Area) for the two Common sites and 549 children in the LSOA for CWH Estate. In other words, only a difference of 26 children. Areas other than the Common would minimise the impact of play area and should not be overstated using information on social return on investment.

(ST) stated that the walking catchment is an important criterion.

(BG) advised that this was why 400m circles had been drawn around each option on the site maps to show residential catchment.

(YM) Asked for clarification as to the 400m line – was this as the "crow flies" or "street distance" as this could make a huge difference when discussing walking distance?

(ST) Confirmed the 400m was measured as the crow flies and that some of the walks are skewed by actual street distance.

(BG) Stated that this method was indicative only, but the best assessment we are liable to get.

(MH) Said that it took 13 mins walk from Post Office to Site 13 and 13m 52s walking from CWHE site to the properties the far side of the M25. Therefore the 400m or measured times were the same for both sites.

Maria Larkin (ML) stated that play area needs to benefit residential areas currently not served by a play area, and therefore the 400m was only one part of the issue.

(DW) suggested that the group should recognise the shortcomings as not one xxx would fit all but move forward with meaningful discussions.

The Chairman suggested that the group should now move forward to the matrix and suggested that in the first instance they look at the environmental factors – at this stage she said that the CMS report had clearly identified Grovewood as ancient woodland and for this reason she felt that Grovewood should now be removed from the list.

(MH) stated that by doing this it would contradict the Chairman's introduction and risk a similar decision on other sites later on.

(DW) stated that Ancient woodland has significant development restrictions which could be a deal breaker; however it did not preclude development, just made it difficult.

(YM) stated that for fairness, transparency and clarity for the Council and members of the public, the group should table all mitigations for all the sites.

(DH) Advised that TRDC tree policy protects trees of significant value of which there were many in Grovewood.

However, it was noted that this point was relevant to all four sites, as all trees were covered by conservation area consent, TPO's or both. It was therefore agreed to carry on discussing the strengths, benefits and problems for all four sites

The Committee decided therefore to start at the beginning of the form, and discussed 'Accessibility for Users' and started to assess 'Safety and Security' before running out of time. (Appendix 2)

Agenda items 4 and 5 were not discussed.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

December 9th at 7.30 pm to be held at the Parish Office.

The Chairman advised that once a decision from this group had been made there would be an extra ordinary meeting of the Parish Council to discuss their recommendations, at which she proposed making a power point presentation. She would however ensure the advisory Committee were entirely happy with the presentation before it was shown to Full Council.

Secretary's note: following that meeting the Chairman has called an additional meeting to be held on November 3rd from 12.30 to 3pm.

15/05 CLOSURE

The Meeting, having commenced at 1.00 pm closed at 3.04pm

These minutes have been checked and signed by the Chairman

SignedApproved via email..... Date ...3.11.15.....

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

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