
PLAY AREA IN CHORLEYWOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 4th FEBRUARY 2016

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Cllr Barbara Green (BG)

Members: Cllr Alison Preedy (AP)

* Substitute Cllr Tony Edwards

* Cllr Martin Trevett (MT)

* Cllr Steve Watkins (SW) (Vice Chairman)

* Michael Hyde (MH) - Friends of the Common

* Maria Larkin (ML) – Chorleywood Residents Association

* Doug King (DK) - Friends of the Chorleywood House Estate

Cllr Chris Lloyd - TRDC

Substitute Cllr Chris Whately-Smith (CWS) - TRDC

*Simone Tyson (ST) - Chorleywood Mums

Substitute Myfanwy Ronchetti (MR) – Chorleywood Mums

* David Hiddleston (DH) – Friends of Grovewood

*Denotes members present

Officers in Attendance: Clerk to the Council Yvonne Merritt

Also in attendance: Alison Rubens, Myfanwy Ronchetti

The marked draft report is attached in Appendix 1 of these minutes for reference.

Items marked in blue were from FOCC, those in pink from Chorleywood Mums, those in yellow from FCWHE, those in green the Parish Clerk.

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.

15/34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Chris Lloyd and substitute Chris Whately-Smith present and Cllr Alison Preedy (substitute Cllr Tony Edwards present).

15/35 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th December 2015 were discussed and whilst it was argued that some of the wording was not correct the essence was and the Committee approved the minutes which were duly signed by the Chairman

15/36 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that she had received communication from TRDC stating that they would pay for the cost of any public enquiry for the planning process and S38 application.

The Clerk confirmed that all the expert reports were on the website – under a new page but that the vested interest reports were not on the website as some of them were opinion based and contained inaccuracies. Cllr Trevett suggested that all information should be available to read and understand to enable people to make their own decisions. Cllr Green suggested that the Council needed to be seen as being transparent and therefore it was agreed that all reports would be put on the Parish Council website.

15/37 DRAFT REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

It was agreed that the report would be gone through on a line by line basis – most groups had already put forward comments/alterations which were on a master sheet held by Cllr Green.

Summary

1.1 It was agreed that the committee could not make comments with regard to the planning or legal aspects. Officers from the Parish would put forward their own report. Simone Tyson asked when the group would see the officer's report for consideration. The Clerk explained that as the Advisory Group had finished the process and make recommendation it was unlikely that they would need to meet again. The Officers report was for the Parish Councillors but this would be in the public domain at the same time it was issued to Councillors. It was also noted that the Advisory Group had not considered whether the proposals constituted good social return on investment, as this function would be carried out by officers at TRDC as principal stake holders.

It was agreed that Cllr Green would put some words together in the Summary to explain why these areas were not covered within the report.

Background

2.5 Members discussed alterations from Michael Hyde with regard to obesity figures, Cllr Green advised that she was not happy to make the changes as it represented the group poorly. The purpose of the group was to achieve a site for a play space and the suggested alteration implied there was no need for one.

Cllr Watkins stated that obesity had been a big issue from the start which could not be ignored, but a playground in the area was not going to solve this problem. There were major lifestyle issues also to be considered.

Maria Larkin commented that the information under discussion was three years old.

By consensus it was decided that the suggestion (in blue) regarding obesity levels did not add anything to the report and therefore it should be taken out.

2.7 It was agreed by five votes to three to take out the comments in blue.

2.8 Members considered the amendments in blue. ST stated that the two questions with regard to the need for play space and protection of the common were not linked in the Community Plan questionnaire. The Comments suggested that there was a spurious linkage to the two questions and should be taken out. It was agreed by five votes to three that the comments in blue be taken out.

2.9 It was agreed that the comments in blue should stay as it gave cause and effect and was a fair comment.

2.11 It was agreed that the comments in blue should remain

Point of Order: The Clerk advised that the Council had not recently agreed to the Dog Control orders and certainly not exclusion zones on Chorleywood Common, there could be legal implications for exclusion which needed to be investigated.

The Process

3.7 It was agreed that the Council's web address should be added.

3.8 The item in blue regarding Planning and Legal should be added, because whilst these issues had been excluded from the scoring system they had been considered nonetheless

It was agreed that the final paragraph would be re-written.

The Findings

4.1 It was noted that all through the report when discussing the scoring for the two sites that the words, 'by a small margin' together with 'a close second' were used. This was subjective and the margins were clear from the scoring and it was agreed that the words 'by a small margin be removed'.

The repeated comments in blue regarding Special Features, Legal and planning should also be removed.

4.3 It was noted that FCWHE did not object to a play space being sited in the grounds but were concerned about the location to the area of population. Cllr Edwards stated that the Parish Council would be tasked to speak for the whole of Chorleywood as they all contributed to the cost of common. The original documentation from TRDC stated that remit for play provision was for the East of Chorleywood.

Cllr Green stated that the points regarding location had been taken into account with the scoring and therefore the report did not need to quantify the point of location of the Chorleywood House Estate site, after all the site had still come out best.

The comments in blue would remain.

A sentence should be added that parking facilities are closer to site 13 on the Common.

4.4 It was agreed that the term of reference and abbreviations should be written in full to allow a greater understanding for the public.

It was agreed to take out the statements made in blue with regard to the proximity to the village. It was also agreed to remove reference to the LSOA data as it is complicated the statement which was not helpful.

It was also agreed to delete both the yellow and blue sentences at the end of 4.4.

4.6 It was agreed to take out the blue sentence and again remove the word 'small' in relation to the margin between the two sites.

Conclusion

5.3 It was agreed that the yellow comments with regard to return on investment remain, but add the word 'social' to correctly reflect the items mentioned in the terms of reference.

It was agreed to remove all the blue comments within the paragraph, as it had already been agreed that the group would not consider these items within their report, and whilst the points may be valid they were not for this report.

5.4 It was agreed to take out the word 'reported' in blue.

It was agreed that Cllr Green would edit the report to take into account all the changes and resend it to everyone via email for one last check before presenting it to the Parish Council.

ST Left the meeting at 3.05pm.

15/31 POWER POINT PRESENTATION FOR PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Green advised that the Presentation would take about 20 minutes. All the Councilors were being asked to attend but would not be commenting on the night. Cllr Trevett stated that neither he nor any of the other District Councillors would be able to attend as he would be at TRDC hoping to secure the budget for next year.

It was agreed that the format for the meeting was to be a Q&A session, chaired by an independent chairman. Cllr Green also advised that the Police and Environmental expert would be on hand to answer questions. She also asked all members of the Advisory Group to support her in answering questions which she hoped she could field to the relevant person. All members present agreed.

Michael Hyde wished on behalf of the Group to say thank you to Cllr Green for chairing the meetings and for all the hard work in preparation of the report.

15/33 CLOSURE

The Meeting, having commenced at 1.00 pm closed at 3.34 pm

These minutes have been checked and signed by the Chairman

Signed Date

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

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