

# Whiteley Town Council

## Strategic Development and Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held in the Council Rooms at Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 8.15pm.

**Committee members present** Mike Evans (Chairman), David Jenkins (Vice-Chairman), Colin Bielckus, Malcolm Butler, Tasmin Smith.

Town Councillors Andy Baker and Pat Thew, four members of the public, Town Clerk Nicki Oliver.

1. **To receive apologies for absence** No apologies.
2. **To receive declarations of interest regarding agenda items** None.
3. **To adjourn meeting to allow participation by members of the public** Not required.
4. **Meeting resumed to consider the following agenda items:**

4.1 To consider request from residents to review the closure of the path from the cinema onto Meadowside Recreation Ground

The Committee reviewed information relevant to the debate:

History of the site.

Petition and comments from residents who wish the path to be open.

Report by Stuart York Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner Crime Prevention Design Advisor who viewed the recreation ground, path and routes to the shopping centre with the Town Clerk.

Advice from Wellers Hedleys that the Town Council 'is obliged to have regard to its duty under s 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in all its decisions to reduce crime and disorder'

Letter from the Chairman of Whiteley Wanderers Youth Football Club who are the main users of the recreation ground, supporting the continued closure of the path.

Cllrs views are noted below as there is some wider public interest in the issue and only two members of the public attended the meeting to hear the outcome.

Cllr Bielckus noted the information that had been circulated and that some of the comments on the petition were unnecessarily unpleasant. Cllr Bielckus considers that the support of the football club with its extensive membership would outweigh those on the petition. The decision not to open the path should stand.

Cllr Smith's views were neutral until the report from Stuart York was circulated. The history of anti-social behaviour is worrying, there have been no incidents since the temporary path was closed and there is the potential for it to re-start if the path is opened. Concerned that the Town Council could regret opening the

path. Lots of the comments with the petition were irrelevant. As a parent and with the information available the decision not to open the path should stand.

Cllr Jenkins agreed with the opinions above. The extra distance to walk only affects a very small area of Whiteley where it is a shorter walk through Camellia Way to Tesco. There is no guarantee that opening the path would deter walking through Camellia Way. Some of the comments with the petition were unnecessarily aggressive. The decision not to open the path should stand.

Cllr Butler noted that the history and process followed to make the decision previously has been examined fairly and rigorously. Cllr Butler respects the petition and its views, if residents in Camellia are concerned that people are walking past their houses and causing trouble they must inform the relevant authorities.

If the Town Council were to pursue another path it wouldn't be the path that has been built which is not suitable for opening onto a recreation ground. Cllr Butler is mindful of the Council's duties under s 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The decision not to open the path should stand.

Cllr Evans views are that it is a matter of weighing up risk against convenience, some of the petition comments are unpleasant. The petition only represents a small percentage of the electorate – 2.7% of Winchester electorate. There is a need to protect the viability of the Meadowside Recreation Ground for community events and to protect the licence. Cllr Evans is confident the decision making process has been thoroughly scrutinised and the decision not to open the path should stand.

**The Committee was unanimous in its recommendation to Full Council that the path should not be opened.**

#### 4.2 Internal Control and Risk Assessment actions for 2016/17

4.2.1 To update the Town Council's Strategy for 2016/17 **Refer to next meeting.**

4.2.2 To review the terms of reference for this committee **Reviewed, no amendments required.**

4.2.3 To review, identify and adopt key objectives for this committee **Refer to next meeting.**

4.2.4 To review the Complaints procedure **Refer to next meeting.**

4.2.5 To consider whether the Town Council wishes to use the General Power of Competence **The Power is available to the Town Council if it wishes to use it.**

4.2.6 To consider adopting a fraud and anti-corruption policy – working with the Finance Committee **Refer to next meeting.**

4.2.7 Proposal to adopt a Document Retention Policy to meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act **Refer to next meeting.**

#### 4.3 To review issues concerning proposals for North Whiteley.

4.3.1 Update on s106 issues **Chairman to ask WCC to forward the latest draft, particularly for issues the Town Council will be involved with such as the adoption of sports pitches, pavilions and play areas.**

4.3.2 Update on proposals for a secondary school and all weather pitches **Included above.**

4.3.3 Update on the construction traffic management plan **Plan not yet available.**

4.3.4 Update on programme for highways infrastructure improvements **No further news.**

4.4 To review Broadband availability issues for Whiteley residents **BT has contacted the Council and will provide an update on the progress of the roll out of faster Broadband in the near future.**

4.5 To receive an update on the progress of an emergency plan for Whiteley **Feedback from HCC awaited.**

4.6 To update the Council and councillors' training and development plans **Refer to next meeting.**

**5. To identify any unmanaged risks within this committee's remit** None.

**6. Review effectiveness of communication, development of links with other community organisations and support for local democracy through making information more widely available** Continue to monitor.

**7. Recent correspondence / reports from meetings of relevance to this committee**

Petition requesting cinema path opened

Report from Stuart York, Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner Crime Prevention Design Advisor following visit to Meadowside Recreation Ground and Shopping Centre

Legal advice from Wellers Hedleys

Correspondence from WWYFC Chairman, main formal user of Meadowside Recreation Ground - supporting the continued closure of the cinema path

Meeting closed 8.45pm