

## **RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2007**

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs Mason - in the Chair

Councillors Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Knight, Mrs Lord, McMurray,  
Miers, Pasley, Walters, Mrs Way

Mr Ian Edser – NSC Streets & Open Spaces Group Manager  
Mr Mark MacGregor NSC Environmental Management Area Manager  
Mr Simon Banbury – NSC Senior Area Officer (North)

**APOLOGIES** Councillor Cruse, Mrs Cruse, Miss Stanley, Wright

#### **RW755 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest Minute No. RW756, Streets & Open Spaces Directorate  
Reason – Lives in vicinity of Lake Grounds

Councillor Pasley

- Personal interest Minute No. RW756, Streets & Open Spaces Directorate  
Reason – Lives in vicinity of Lake Grounds

#### **Declaration by members who serve on both the Town and District Council**

Councillors Mrs Knight, McMurray and Pasley stated that any views they expressed on matters to also be considered at North Somerset Council would be provisional and based on the facts currently known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

#### **RW756 STREETS & OPEN SPACES DIRECTORATE**

Mr Edser introduced his two colleagues and the work that he manages.

#### **A. LAKEGROUNDS**

##### **Section S106 Funding**

Mr Edser explained to members that S106s are legal agreements for a developer to provide money for extra amenities. In particular he spoke of the way in which his department is reviewing all the outstanding S106 legal agreements for money to be spent by his department. Town Council input was advisory only.

He reviewed what had been done and was being done at the Lake Grounds [£91,950] and planned [£272,650]. A copy of the schedule would be emailed to the Town Clerk. By the end of 2007 Mr MacGregor will have the timelines for working up projects.

During the discussion the following points were made -

- S106 Monies should only be used to enhance local provision and some Agreements were more restrictive than others, both in content and time-scale.
- Officer resource implications in ‘working-up’ schemes for submission, in accordance with Standing Orders, to the Executive Member, Capital Board and subsequent implementation.
- Time frames should be provided whenever possible.
- To what extent should Town Councils and local District Members be consulted before schemes were submitted to the Executive Member?
- More input is needed into the formation of the S106 agreements at the Planning stage both by District Members and specialist Officers.

### **General**

- To help with better monitoring of the Maintenance Contractors Mr Edser agreed to a local on-site meeting with the Contractor, local District Councillor and NSC officer.
- The concern was often about major maintenance matters not routine maintenance. Concerns were raised about the Lake Ground toilets, litter, detritus and debris in the Lake and the condition of the paths round the Lake.

### **Equipment for older children**

- The Officers tabled suggestions for Town Council consideration as requested by the previous Town Council. This request and the allocated £30,000, had not yet been confirmed by the new Council.

## **B. OTHER MATTERS**

- The Avon Way MUGA which had considerable design input following consultation by local Councillors was now installed, appreciated and well used by local people.

### **RW757            STREETS AND OPEN SPACES FEEDBACK**

Mr Edser explained the reasons why requests should be channelled through the Town Council Office to Mr Mike Brown, Area Inspector. Councillors fully accepted this method but were concerned that they did not receive feedback from their request. In particular members needed to know if the matter could be dealt with quickly, or if it was to take longer some idea of the likely time scale. If the matter could not be dealt with within the existing budget constraints then Councillors needed to know that so that they could consider what should be done in the next budget round. It was agreed to try to provide this information.

At this point Mr Edser and his colleagues left the meeting having received thanks from the Chairman for their presence and forbearance and help to the Members present.

### **RW758            USE OF THE OLD LIBRARY IN PORTISHEAD AS AN ARTS CENTRE**

In addition to the letter from Mr Harris, a reply to Mr Harris from the Chairman, and a further letter from Mr Harris were tabled.

Some Members regarded the idea favourably, others were concerned that because of the nature of the building maintenance costs would be a constant drain on the resources of any such organisation. The Town Council was not in a position to give any commitment financial

or otherwise at this time. The time scale for the new Library was problematical and it was thought that consideration of the use of the old building was premature.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that

The Clerk ask North Somerset Council for the latest information on the proposed start date of the new Library bearing in mind the previous missed proposed start dates, and bring back to the Committee the matter of the use of the old Library building when we have a firm timetable for the new library.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.