

**BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY held at 4.30 pm on 10 JANUARY 2000 at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN**

Present:- Councillor D J Morson - Chairman.  
Councillors Mrs D Cornell, M A Hibbs and D M Miller.

Officers in attendance:- J Bosworth, T Greenwood, M T Purkiss and  
B Smeeden.

**I. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 1999 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**I. BUSINESS ARISING**

**(i) Minute BEG3 - Role of the Working Party**

Members noted that the Amenities Sub-Committee and the Community Services Committee had approved the inclusion of a sum of £25,000 in the draft revenue estimates for security measures and a further £17,000 had been included to enable a gardener to be appointed. The Planning and Development Committee had also included a sum of £5,000 for the Environmental Task Force. The matter would now be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 11 January 2000. The Chairman stated that he would attend this meeting to give support to the inclusion of these items. It was also noted that Saffron Walden Town Council had included a sum of £25,000 in their draft estimates which would be finalised on 14 January 2000.

**(ii) Minute BEG4 - Draft By-Laws**

The Committee and PR Manager reported that he had written to the Home Office seeking advice on draft model by-laws which might be appropriate to Bridge End Gardens.

**(iii) Minute BEG7 - Restoration and Management Plan**

The Landscape Officer reported that he was arranging for an initial inspection and survey of the culvert to be carried out involving the Council's Engineering and Safety Officer. It was intended that this would be a precursor to inviting quotations, without commitment. Members of the Working Party were of the view that it was necessary to ensure that the culvert was not in danger of collapse and that the most cost effective solution was implemented.

Officers would proceed on the lines indicated and report back to the next meeting of the Working Party.

**I. HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID**

The Head of Local Plan and Conservation reminded Members of the background to the potential bid which would be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Officers from the Heritage Lottery Fund had previously suggested that a well presented bid in the sum of approximately £500,000 might be appropriate. He stated that in association with the Clerk to the Saffron Walden Town Council an assessment had been made of the boundary between the Gardens and land owned by the Town Council and the estimated cost of making this secure was approximately £77,000. This item, together with any repairs to the culvert, could form part of the bid for lottery funding.

The Landscape Officer reported that officers from the Heritage Lottery Fund had stressed the importance of any bid reflecting efforts to address areas of deprivation and community involvement. Whilst it was difficult to put forward a proposal that Uttlesford was an area of deprivation it was suggested that the bid should, if possible, involve the Environmental Task Force of young unemployed and people working on community service orders. Under the New Deal Scheme such a task force had been carrying out work to the gardens. However, the service provider had now withdrawn. Officers were attempting to reinstate an initiative which involved young unemployed persons and people working on community service orders through the probation service. It was considered that any bid made to the Heritage Lottery Fund should stress the importance of

involving these people and using the work as part of a training package which could lead to qualifications. Members of the Working Party were particularly pleased to note that despite the discontinuance of the scheme the volunteers were still working at the gardens on three days each week and that they would shortly be carrying out the planting of the woodland around the maze. The Landscape Officer was requested to produce a report on the potential future involvement of the Task Force for the next meeting.

Councillor Hibbs also stressed the importance of involving private sector investment and asked if the Principal Accountant would prepare a short paper on any tax advantages associated with such private sector investment for the next meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the basis of a future bid for HLF financial assistance should be the preparation of a Phase 1 bid for the restoration of the gardens with the initial emphasis on securing the gardens against vandalism and highlighting the involvement of training schemes with the probation service and unemployed, together with the involvement of the local community, the private sector and the Friends of Bridge End Gardens.

## **I. POTENTIAL GRANT SOURCES**

Members received a comprehensive list setting out potential sources of grant funding. Officers advised that the following organisations needed to be added:

Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, Saffron Walden Town Council, Essex County Council, the Civic Trust, Essex Environmental Trust, European sources and local private firms.

It was suggested that a letter should be sent to the local Members of the European Parliament seeking their advice on potential European community funding.

It was considered that when detailed proposals had been agreed, requests for funding that were only available to Charitable Trusts, would more appropriately be applied for by the Friends of Bridge End Gardens, if that organisation was willing to make such applications.

Councillor Mrs Cornell considered that it was important to encourage events to be held in the gardens. The Landscape Officer replied that a number of events had recently been held including a wedding reception.

## **I. EXPENDITURE 1999/2000**

Officers reported that approximately £1,100 had been spent this year on various items of equipment which had been purchased for the Task Force. A further £1,500 was earmarked to be spent on restoring wall paintings from the summerhouse and the remainder in the budget would be spent on planting in the kitchen garden. Councillor Hibbs suggested that some improvements to signing would also be useful.

## **I. MAZE SECURITY FENCING**

It was noted that the Council had included a sum of £4,000 in the current estimates for fencing at the Maze. The Town Council had also set aside £5,000 in this year's estimates. Quotations had been obtained for fencing and the figures were well in excess of the £9,000 available. Officers asked whether Members felt it was more appropriate to carry over this year's allocation to 2000/01 to enable a more comprehensive scheme to be undertaken. However, Members felt that it would be useful to implement part of the work during the current financial year to show the Council's commitment to the scheme. The Property Services Manager would be asked to submit a plan to the next meeting showing how an appropriate fencing scheme could be implemented during the current financial year.

## **I. NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 4.30 pm on Monday, 6 March 2000.

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