

**BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY held at 4.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 24 JULY 2000**

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

Also present:- Mr M D White (Saffron Walden Town Council).

Officers in attendance:- J Bosworth, M T Purkiss, B Smeeden and
Mrs S J West.

BEG12 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R C Dean and M A Hibbs.

BEG13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

BEG14 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) BEG3 - Potential Grant Sources

It was noted that a grant application had been submitted as part of the European Partnership - Culture 2000 Initiative. It was hoped that a reply would be received by the end of July. Letters would also be sent to Members of the European Parliament for the Eastern Region as soon as possible.

The Working Party noted that two parties of young people with disabilities had visited the gardens and these events had been very successful. However, attention was drawn to deficiencies regarding disabled access to the gardens particularly to toilet provision for which grant aid would be sought from RADAR.

It was noted that the Task Force was now keeping a log of the number of visitors to the gardens.

(ii) BEG4 - Environmental Task Force

The Chairman reported that he had been very impressed with the commitment of the young people on the Task Force and a letter of congratulations had been sent. Details of the current numbers of people involved were reported. It was noted that the Council received a payment for each of the participants. However, with the demise of the TEC the service would be transferred from the Herts TEC to the Employment Service in August 2000.

It was reported that discussions had been held with Writtle College for training to be provided for the participants on the scheme and that representatives of the College would visit the gardens to provide this service.

(iii) Fencing - Unspent Balance

It was noted that Saffron Walden Town Council had no objection to the proposed works to the boundary with the Anglo American Memorial Playing Fields and further details would be provided at the next meeting.

(iv) BEG7 - Applications for External Funding

Officers reported that there had been a positive initial response from BAA to possible funding from their 21st Century Fund. Councillors Mrs Cornell and Hibbs were pursuing other sources of funding and would report progress in due course.

(v) BEG9 - Security at the Gardens

Officers reported that the contractor who was responsible for locking public conveniences had not been agreeable to locking the gates at Bridge End Gardens. However, the current contract expired in May 2001 and Officers would look at including provision for locking the gates at the gardens within the new contract. Officers were pursuing an interim solution and it was suggested that if possible the gates be locked at 8.30 pm for an experimental period over the summer holiday. Mr White advised that the groundsman for the cricket club might be prepared to undertake this work and Officers agreed to approach him.

The Working Party endorsed this action.

(vi) BEG10 - Friends of Bridge End Gardens

The public launch of the Friends of Bridge End Gardens at Saffron Walden Library on 21 June had been well attended and had been very successful. It illustrated the level of support which there was for the gardens.

BEG15 VIEWING PLATFORM

Officers reported that the viewing platform was now in position. The platform had been partly funded by donations and the fund would now be closed. It was suggested that it should be replaced by a general fund for the restoration of Bridge End Gardens with the current project being the replacement of a stone seat in the maze.

Donors to the fund for the viewing platform would be invited to an open event at the gardens on 19 August at 11.30 am to 3.30 pm to be hosted by the Chairman of the Council. The press would be invited to this event.

Councillor Miller said that he would make contact with a possible donor for a contribution towards the cost of replacing the stone seat and would advise the Working Party at the next meeting.

BEG16 MAZE CONFERENCE

It was noted that the maze conference had been well attended and there had been some extremely good press coverage.

BEG17 ROSE GARDEN

Officers were working on the design of the rose garden in consultation with the Friends. Steady progress was being made and once a design and layout had been agreed the Task Force would carry out the preparatory work to the garden. It was agreed that the design would be completed by the next meeting.

BEG18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 4.30 pm on Monday 18 September 2000 in the Committee Room, London Road, Saffron Walden.

The meeting ended at 5.20 pm.