

BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY held at 4.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 11 DECEMBER 2000

Present:- Councillor D J Morson – Chairman
Councillors Mrs D Cornell, R C Dean and M A Hibbs.

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

BEG38 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D M Miller and M D White (Saffron Walden Town Clerk).

BEG39 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

BEG40 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute BEG32(iv) - Summer House

It was reported that three tenders had been received for carrying out works to the summer house. An application for funding would now immediately be made to the Essex Environment Trust. If funding was forthcoming Members would be consulted regarding the placing of an order for the works. It was generally considered that it would be prudent to wait for the security measures to be undertaken before commencing repair works to the summer house.

(ii) Minute BEG32(v) - External Funding Update

Councillors Mrs Cornell and Hibbs reported that no progress had been made with regard to their respective requests for funding to Tesco and Ridgeons.

(iii) Minute BDG33 -Task Force Update

It was noted that the renewal of the contract for the Gardener/Supervisor had been recommended for approval and would be determined by the Policy and Resources Committee on 19 December 2000.

The Working Party was pleased to note that the generator and polytunnel were now on site.

Councillor Hibbs raised the question of the state of untidiness outside the gardens, near the allotments. The old container unit had now been replaced by a new one. However, it was hoped to move this to an alternative site in the near future. Some Members were concerned that material from the cemetery

was being disposed of in the compost area adjoining Bridge End Gardens. Officers stated that the longer term aspirations for this area involved provision of a visitor car park.

Following the Best Value Review, a report concerning the relationship between Service Team and the Task Force would be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Party if current officer level discussions had sufficiently advanced.

(iv) Minute BEG35 – Certificate of Merit

It was reported that the Chairman of the Council had presented three Certificates of Merit on 8 December 2000.

BEG41 PROPOSED BY-LAWS

At a previous meeting of the Working Party, Members had agreed the principle of draft by-laws for the regulation of Bridge End Gardens.

The Home Office had made some minor amendments and had asked that the by-laws be submitted for formal approval.

RECOMMENDED that:

1. The adoption of the by-laws for the regulation of Bridge End Gardens as set out in the appendix to these Minutes be approved
2. The Chief Executive be authorised to carry out the necessary procedures and apply to the Home Office for confirmation.
3. Subject to confirmation of the by-laws officers be authorised to order the relevant signs and notices.

BEG42 ROSE GARDEN

Officers reported that the appropriate Victorian varieties of rose had now been selected and details had been sent to three suppliers. About 150 roses would be planted. At a later stage climbers would be planted on the metal hoops, once repaired. Members suggested that efforts should be made to achieve public sponsorship for the roses and it was considered appropriate to raise this with the Friends of Bridge End Gardens, following responses from the suppliers.

BEG43 EXTERNAL FUNDING INITIATIVES – UPDATE

Members were pleased to note that a grant of £10,000 had been offered by Stansted Airport Limited. Discussions with the Linbury Trust were also ongoing and officers were hopeful of a positive decision perhaps as early as mid-January. Officers would immediately make an application for funding to the Essex Environmental Trust. Once decisions had been received from this organisation and from the Linbury Trust an application would be made to English Heritage and then the Heritage Lottery Fund.

BEG44 SECURITY MEASURES

A comprehensive security scheme had been prepared by Officers and details submitted to the Linbury Trust. These included general measures to supply electricity for CCTV and the installation of security cameras, alarms and securing boundaries. The measures also included provision for employing staff to lock up the gardens at later hours during the summer.

Experience from schemes elsewhere in the country illustrated that security and the support of the local community were essential for a scheme such as this to be successful.

BEG45 NEW DEAL

It was reported that the contract with New Deal had been signed. Discussions had been held with the Employment Service and they had been encouraged to provide more placements and would use their best endeavours to provide 12 placements per year. It was recognised that, due to the low levels of unemployment in the area, these targets might be difficult to achieve. Officers were looking at preparing a leaflet which could be used to promote the scheme in job centres. The New Deal scheme had generated income of £6,000 to date which would offset in part the salary of the Gardener/Supervisor.

Officers reported that an approach had been received from the Ferguson Trust for a mentally handicapped person and mentor to undertake some work in the gardens. Also, Skills Training UK had made an approach for placements and these requests were being investigated.

BEG46 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 22 January 2001 at 4.30pm.

The meeting ended at 5.40pm.