

**BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 28 AUGUST 2001 at 4.30pm**

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

Officers in attendance: J Bosworth, Miss S Chapman, M T Purkiss and  
B Smeeden.

**BEG91 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R C Dean and M A Hibbs and from the Clerk to Saffron Walden Town Council.

**BEG92 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**BEG93 BUSINESS ARISING**

**i) By-Laws – Progress Report**

The Committee and Communications Manager informed Members that the by-laws relating to dogs had been advertised. The closing date for objections to the by-laws was 2 September 2001. The Head of Legal Services was investigating the status of a set of by-laws dating back to 1963 and a further update would be given at the next meeting of the Working Party.

**ii) Further Tasks in the Garden**

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that the work to the trenches had been far more extensive than envisaged and had caused some delays. It had not therefore been possible to complete the works to the gates leading into the kitchen garden.

**iii) External Funding Update**

It was noted that Sir Alan Haselhurst MP had written to the Heritage Lottery Fund in support of the Council's bid.

**iv) Taskforce Update**

The Landscape Officer reported that there were currently two people on the New Deal scheme and one on the Follow-Through scheme. He reported that since the start of the project a total of £11,300 had been paid or was owing to the Council through the scheme.

**v) Deed with Essex Environmental Trust**

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that this matter had now been completed.

**vi) Fund Raising in Saffron Walden**

It was noted that £250 had been received from Ridgeons towards work in the gardens. A representative of the company could not be present at the open day on 16 September and an approach would be made to the company to see whether an alternative date could be made for a photo opportunity.

**BEG94 FURTHER TASKS IN THE GARDEN**

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that work was in hand in preparation for the Friends Family Open Day where it was hoped to have the gardens in prime condition, have the Summer House open for inspection and display the new painting colour for woodwork in the Gardens, on the entrance gate to the Maze. Councillor Mrs Cornell suggested that some better quality and larger litter bins would be an improvement. The Landscape Officer confirmed that this was part of the restoration project.

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that it would not be possible to spend the £25,000 contribution from Saffron Walden Town Council during the current financial year and Councillor Mrs Cornell undertook to raise this matter with the Town Council so that the contribution could be carried over to the next financial year. Expenditure of funding provided by external partners would best await the outcome of the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding and not spent "piecemeal" except in special circumstances such as restoration of the Summer House.

**BEG95 TASKFORCE UPDATE**

The Landscape Officer reported that a visit had been made by the New Deal advisors from Waltham Cross who were very enthusiastic about the project and were looking at the possibility of making placements.

**BEG96 EXTERNAL FUNDING UPDATE**

Officers had responded to several supplementary questions which had been raised by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the bid had now been passed to their experts prior to submission for a "stage one decision", anticipated to be determined on 28 November 2001.

**BEG97 SECURITY/ CLOSURE OF GARDENS**

It was noted that there had been no major incidents in the gardens during the summer which may have been due, in part, to extra patrols from the police. The Working Party were aware that it had been agreed during the last

meeting that, bearing in mind the advice from the police, the gardens should not be locked at the present time. They would be locked once security measures were in place and boundaries secured.

**BEG98 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH FRIENDS**

Councillor Morson reported that Dr Jane Cole had been appointed as a representative from the CPRE.

A meeting would be held on 6 September with Barbara Lumsden and Richard Ayres concerning their offer to provide advice involving the gardens. It was suggested that the possibility of opening up and designing a new flower bed on the central lawn area could be raised with them at this meeting.

The Friends had contributed £471 towards the cost of the next stage of the planting of roses.

The Friends' AGM would be held on Wednesday 31 October 2001 at a venue to be determined.

**BEG99 PROGRESS ON SUMMER HOUSE**

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that works were progressing well with the summerhouse and it was hoped to have it substantially restored in time for the Friends Family day on 16 September.

**BEG100 YEW CLIPPINGS FOR CANCER TREATMENT**

Contact had been made with Greenoak Estates, a group which processed yew clippings for Cancer treatment. Some yew clippings had been collected by them. Additional work was involved in collecting the clippings for which the Council received a modest payment. The Working Party considered that this effort was worthwhile.

**BEG101 FRIENDS FAMILY DAY**

Members were reminded that the Friends Family day would be held between 3 – 5 pm on Sunday 16 September 2001. The Saffron Walden Swing Band and a choral group called the Voice Squad would be performing at the event.

**BEG102 THE ARTS COUNCIL**

Councillor Miller suggested that opportunities should be investigated to involve the Arts Council in displays in the gardens. He passed some documents to the Local Plan and Conservation Manager and the matter would be investigated further.

**BEG103      STONE BENCH**

Councillor Miller offered to provide a stone seat in memory of his daughter, Alison Miller. It was suggested that an historic stone bench would be ideal in the kitchen garden on the north western wall. The Working Party thanked Councillor Miller for his generous offer and officers would research appropriate designs and contact Cllr Miller to finalise selection.

**BEG104      NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held at 4.30pm on Monday 5 November 2001.