

**BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.30 pm on 4 MARCH 2002**

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

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

BEG133 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2002 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

BEG134 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Stone Bench

Councillor Miller confirmed that the stone bench had been ordered and he understood that it was complete.

(ii) Writtle College

The Friends had been advised of the felling of the beech tree which would be undertaken by students of Writtle College. A press release would also be issued explaining the reasons for the felling of the tree.

Councillor Morson said that the Friends were looking at the possibility of sponsoring one of the Taskforce participants as a student.

(iii) Further tasks in the garden

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that he had had discussions with representatives of Carver Barracks and had received a positive indication that they would assist in work in the gardens including the redigging of the ha-ha. Formal confirmation was awaited. He said that he was also arranging for debris at the Slade to be removed. The Local Plan and Conservation Manager would follow this up.

(iv) Photo call

A letter had been sent to Lord Sainsbury and copied to the Linbury Trust and a reply was awaited.

(v) By-Laws

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager said that the signs relating to the dog by-laws were being positioned this week. He was pursuing the display of the other signs.

Councillor Morson said that he would pursue the involvement of the Friends regarding the signage leading to the gardens. It was also suggested that

Essex County Council should be approached to discuss the possibility of erecting brown heritage signs.

(vi) Proposed website

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager said that he had discussed this matter with the Council's IT Section and would be progressing the matter as part of the additional information required by HLF.

BEG135 TASKFORCE UPDATE

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that the current Taskforce scheme had ended. Coincidentally the Government had introduced a new Innovation Scheme for which the Council was applying. This aimed to increase those participants obtaining jobs and could extend eligibility beyond the 18 – 24 year olds. Developing links with employers in the local area was seen as vital. In this context he said that he would be discussing the issue with Stansted Airport in relation to their Landscape Contract Team. Changes were proposed to the funding arrangements to encourage successful Service Providers to increase numbers of participants obtaining jobs. The Local Plan and Conservation Manager said that work was in hand to submit a bid under the new scheme by the deadline of 15 March 2002. The Heritage Lottery Fund had confirmed that if the new bid was unsuccessful the new arrangements would not affect the lottery bid.

BEG136 EXTERNAL FUNDING UPDATE

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that representatives of the Heritage Lottery Fund had visited the gardens. He said that it was evident that HLF would be extensively involved. However, they were flexible, supportive and knowledgeable. He said that the visit had provided an opportunity for a very valuable and positive discussion.

One new issue had emerged concerning the repairs to the brickwork and a detailed assessment would be made. He suggested that it might be more advantageous if the Council employed a person to undertake this work for a limited period rather than to go out to a contractor. Councillor Hibbs confirmed that it was extremely difficult to find craftsmen with the necessary skills. He added that there could be significant cost advantages to the Council if it purchased the materials itself. He suggested that discussions should be held with the County Council to talk to the organisers of the heritage events at Cressing Temples and also to English Heritage concerning the craftsmen they had used at Audley End. The Local Plan and Conservation Manager would discuss the matter with Councillor Hibbs and officers would examine whether any proposed arrangements met the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders relating to contracts.

Councillor Morson said that the meeting between himself, the Friends and Barbara Lumsden had been cancelled and was being rescheduled. He said that the priorities were now to carry out work on the historic planting plan and the management plan. Councillor Mrs Cornell confirmed that Saffron Walden

Town Council had set aside a budget for Bridge End Gardens generally and it was possible that this could be made available to help develop the management plan. The Local Plan and Conservation Manager would write to the Town Council in this respect.

BEG137 EVENTS IN THE GARDENS

Councillor Hibbs suggested that the Round Table, Rotary and Castle Street Residents Association should be approached to see whether they would like to hold suitable events, such as Golden Jubilee or Carnival events in the gardens. Officers undertook to investigate the legal, insurance and other issues and to write a suitably worded letter to these organisations.

BEG138 CONSTITUTION TASK GROUP

Councillor Morson said that the Constitution Task Group had recommended that the Bridge End Gardens Working Party should report to the Environment and Transport Committee. He said that whilst there might be practical reasons for this he considered that the Bridge End Gardens Scheme was a community project and it would be more relevant for it to report to the Community and Leisure Committee.

BEG139 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Working Party would be held at 4.30 pm on 15 April 2002.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm.