

**BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.30 pm on 16 SEPTEMBER
2002**

Present:- Councillor D J Morson – Chairman.
Councillors R C Dean and D M Miller.

Officers in attendance:- J Bosworth and M T Purkiss.

BEG188 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs D Cornell and M A Hibbs, the Clerk to Saffron Walden Town Council, David Demery and Miss S Chapman.

BEG189 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2002 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

BEG190 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Stone Bench

The Working Party were pleased with the new stone bench which had been installed in the Gardens and noted that some minor works to the inscription were to be carried out.

(ii) Bye-laws

It was understood that the Animal Warden was including Borough Meadows on her regular visits and her further comments would be reported to the next meeting. Metal signs publicising the bye-laws were being prepared.

(iii) Memorials

Councillor Miller said that he had asked Councillor Mrs Cornell to pursue the matter with an individual who was known to be interested. Councillor R C Dean also expressed an interest. The Local Plan and Conservation Manager said that there would be many opportunities for individuals to purchase historically appropriate items, including Victorian seats.

(iv) Long-Term Maintenance Commitments

At its last meeting the Community and Leisure Committee had reaffirmed its support for the Bridge End Gardens Restoration Project and had made appropriate provision in its Draft Revenue Estimates.

(v) Flooding

At its last meeting the Environment and Transport Committee noted that some minor remedial works had been carried out to prevent flooding in the Bridge Street area. Members of that Committee felt that it would be sensible to see how effective these works were before further works were carried out. It was understood that this decision would be reviewed by Scrutiny Committee 2.

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager said that a sum of £1500 would be spent on cleaning the culvert under the Gardens and further minor works were scheduled to be carried out on clearing trees and rubbish in the stream bed elsewhere. These works to the Slade were included in the Heritage Lottery Fund bid. Additionally, discussions were taking place with the Army to provide a security ditch at Borough Meadow adjacent to the Dutch garden. This was also being designed to provide some water storage in time of heavy flood.

BEG191 MANAGEMENT AND HISTORIC PLANTING PLANS

Following the last meeting Members had expressed their enthusiasm for the draft Management and Historic Planting Plans. Officers said that the proposals were being developed and were on target for completion by 30 September. The Local Plan and Conservation Manager said that he was hoping to get the Heritage Lottery Fund Stage 2 bid submitted by the end of October.

BEG192 TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that the revised working relationships had led to improved working relations. There had been a significant throughput on the Community Service Scheme during the past 18 months and three volunteers were assisting on a regular basis.

BEG193 EXTERNAL FUNDING UPDATE

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

BEG194 PROGRESS WITH HLF BID

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that he had discussed the bid with the Monitor. He said that whilst the cost of capital works were less than in the Stage 1 estimate the sum allowed for contingencies had been increased. He circulated a draft of the Stage 2 submission for Heritage Lottery funding for Members' comments.

The Working Party thanked Officers for their work.

BEG195 **BEECH TREE TO REAR OF SUMMERHOUSE**

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that following testing and advice from an expert consultant it had been confirmed that this tree was in a potentially dangerous condition and therefore should be felled. It was hoped that the work would be undertaken within the next month and an appropriate press release would be issued prior to felling. A notice would also be placed on the tree explaining the position and expressing regret at the felling of this tree.

BEG196 **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH FRIENDS**

Councillor Morson reported that the Friends' AGM had been postponed. Arrangements were in hand for the Friends to carry out the planting of the beds at the Castle Street entrance and they had been advised of the date when the roses would be delivered so that they could assist with their planting. In answer to a question from Councillor Dean it was noted that it would be possible for a representative of the Friends to attend meetings of the Working Party on an ad hoc basis.

BEG197 **GARDENER/SUPERVISOR**

In answer to a question from Councillor Miller it was explained that the current contract of the Gardener/Supervisor would run until May 2003. The future of the contract would be reviewed in the light of the HLF bid.

BEG198 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, 15 October 2002 in the Members Room. **At the request of the Chairman this meeting is now scheduled for 28 October 2002.**

The meeting ended at 5.15 pm.