

**BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.30 pm on 28 OCTOBER 2002**

Present:- Councillor D J Morson – Chairman.

Councillors Mrs D Cornell, R C Dean and D M Miller.

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

BEG199 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M A Hibbs and the Clerk to Saffron Walden Town Council.

BEG200 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2002 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

BEG201 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Bye-laws

It was noted that the metal signs publicising new bye-laws were about to be prepared. However, it was mentioned that the lectern style boards would cost in the region of £700 for each site. As an alternative, vandal-proof cases could be made available at approximately £350-£400 each. The Working Party considered that the vandal-proof cases should be ordered as soon as possible.

(ii) Memorials

Councillor Mrs Cornell reported that the individual mentioned at the last meeting was now looking to provide a bench at an alternative location.

Councillor Dean said that he was willing to provide the seat as set out on item 85 of the Schedule of Repairs. The Working Party expressed their gratitude to Councillor Dean for his generosity.

(iii) Flooding

It was noted that the general issue concerning flooding in the Bridge Street area was going back to the Environment and Transport Committee at its meeting on 12 November 2002.

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that the 33 Engineer Regiment had agreed to carry out work to the retaining pond and defences in the Spring. Rubbish had also been cleared from the culvert.

(iv) Beech Tree to Rear of Summer House

It was reported that the diseased Beech Tree had been removed prior to the recent gales.

BEG202 MANAGEMENT AND HISTORIC PLANTING PLANS

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that these plans had been completed within the deadline.

BEG203 TASKFORCE UPDATE

It was noted that as the Gardener/Supervisor had been on sick leave for several weeks and that it had not been appropriate for the volunteer workforce to work in the Gardens without supervision. It was hoped that the Gardener/Supervisor would return to work shortly and the Working Party expressed their best wishes to him for a full and speedy recovery.

BEG204 EXTERNAL FUNDING UPDATE

Councillor Mrs Cornell said that Saffron Walden Town Council required an invoice from this Council so that the £25,000 from last year's budget for security fencing and £10,000 from the current budget towards the Management Plan could be paid. She said that if further finance was needed from the Town Council for 2003/04 it would need to be towards a specific project and the Local Plan and Conservation Manager would give urgent consideration to this. A letter would also go to the Town Council explaining how the finance was being used.

BEG205 PROGRESS WITH HLF BID

The Local Plan and Conservation Manager reported that as he had received no further comments from Members on the draft documentation. The bid had therefore been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The bid was seeking a level of grant of £393,300; £30,800 above the Stage 1 bid. The increase followed advice which had been received from the HLF monitor. It was understood that the bid would be considered by the appropriate HLF Committee at their meeting on 21 February 2003. A copy of the main document (without appendices) had been placed in the Members room for information. *(Should any Member require additional information or wish to view the boxed appendices please contact John Bosworth on extension 453).*

The Working Party thanked officers for submitting such a well presented and thorough submission.

BEG206 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH FRIENDS

Councillor Morson said that the Friends' AGM would now be held on 21 November 2002 in the parish rooms at St Mary's Church. He suggested that Members of the Working Party should attend if possible. It was also noted that the additional roses had been ordered and planting had been scheduled for 15 November, subject to delivery and weather conditions. The Friends had advised that they would make a generous donation of 50% of the total cost (£522).

BEG207 PUBLICITY

It was agreed that Saffron Walden Museum would be approached to discuss how reciprocal publicity arrangements between the Museum and Bridge End Gardens could be developed and improved.

BEG208

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at 4.30 pm on Monday, 3 March 2003 in the Members' Room, following the scheduled HLF decision date.

The meeting ended at 5.10 pm.