

**BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.30 pm on MONDAY 14 APRIL
2003**

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

Officers in Attendance:- J Bosworth and Miss R Haylock.

BEG218 APOLOGIES

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

BEG219 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

BEG220 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Byelaws

It was reported that the vandal proof case for the new byelaw signs had been delivered but not yet erected. The Project Manager explained that signs in the gardens needed to be co-ordinated and that the byelaw signs would be erected before the next meeting.

(ii) Flooding

The Project Manager informed Members that the Council's engineer had recently met with an army representative from the 33 Engineer Regiment who had advised they would undertake the work of building a defensive ditch free of charge once they had resources available. This would likely be in the next 2-3 months. It was important to recognise that the defensive ditch would only assist to a small degree in alleviating flooding.

(iii) Gardener/Supervisor

It was noted that the Gardener/Supervisor was now back at work after a period of sick leave. However, the Assistant Gardener had been absent due to illness.

BEG221 PROGRESS WITH HLF BID

The Project Manager reported that the Council's bid for money from the Heritage Lottery Fund had been successful. The sum of money awarded was £387,000. The work was scheduled to commence in April 2003 and would run for a period of about two years. In association with HLF giving formal

permission to commence, additional information had to be submitted. Formal approval to commence was awaited.

BEG222 PROPOSED TENDERING PROCESS

The Project Manager reported that the tenders for security cameras had been returned and that the lowest quotation was within 1% of the original estimate. Tenders for the main building works contract were due to be received by 22 April and it was hoped works would begin in May 2003.

BEG223 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH FRIENDS

Councillor Morson reported that there had not been a recent meeting with the Friends. The Project Manager advised Members of the positive relationship that he thought had developed between the Council and the Friends.

BEG224 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be fixed after the local elections.

BEG225 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Members discussed the forthcoming royal visit on 28 May 2003 and the Project Manager informed Members that a press release had been finalised. Councillor Mrs Cornell reported that it would not be possible for the royal helicopter to land on the cricket field, as it would likely cause damage to the pitch.
- (ii) The Project Manager reported that a report to the next Full Council meeting would recommend that the Bridge End Gardens Working Party should be established as a Task Group, thus giving additional powers and avoiding the need to make recommendations to the Community and Leisure Committee.
- (iii) The Project Manager advised the Chairman that the CCTV cameras, which would be positioned on four columns, did not require planning permission. The local police and English Heritage had been extensively involved in relation to this proposal. In such circumstances where work was being carried out by the Council, it was protocol to advise Members, notwithstanding planning permission was not required. Members noted the position and stressed the need for the columns to be located discreetly to minimise visual intrusion.
- (iv) Councillor Dean stated that he would not be standing in the forthcoming Election, but he would like to offer his services to the Bridge End Gardens Working Party if he could be of assistance. Councillor Mrs Cornell expressed her gratitude to all the Committee officers for their co-operation over the years.