

**BRIDGE END GARDENS TASK GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.30 pm on 16 FEBRUARY 2004**

Present: - Councillor D J Morson – Chairman.
Councillors B M Hughes and V Pedder.

Officers in attendance: - J Bosworth and R Kirmani

BEG42 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R P Chambers and A J Ketteridge and S McLagan.

BEG43 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 December 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

BEG44 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Flooding

The Project Manager reported that the matter had been discussed with officers from the Saffron Walden Town Council. Quotations for the work at the defensive ditch would be received shortly and it was hoped work would start by mid March. The Town Council had approved a site for depositing the earth

(ii) Staffing

The Chairman informed the Group that the Community and Leisure Committee on 6 January 2004 had agreed the recommendations of this Group regarding staffing issues.

The Project Manager reported that as agreed the equipment would be purchased after 1 April. Gardener A had been transferred to the post of Gardener 1 and the temporary post of Gardener 2 was being renewed on a month-by-month basis.

(iv) Progress Report

The Project Manager reported that the dangerous wall in Bridge Street Path would be rebuilt from the £30,000 approved by the Resources Committee. It was proposed that wooden shuttering would be incorporated to enable the floodwater in Castle Street Path to flow into the stream.

BEG45 NEW INITIATIVES

The Project Manager further reported that some funding had been received from the British Council. He was planning to organise planting day for ten students each from the County High School and visiting students from Rumania.

BEG46 PROGRESS REPORT

The Project Manager said that progress had been reported regularly in the Bridge End Garden Newsletters. He further reported that statues from the gardens were being restored. The young people carrying out the restoration work were doing excellent work and were using modern technology.

The Group agreed that all Members of the Council be invited to the Gardens once the statues were returned.

BEG47 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Project Manager reported that a very old London Plane tree was in a bad state and he had requested it be reduced by 25% to make it safe.

The Chairman said that before any work was carried out the residents should be advised and the Project Manager confirmed that the Newsletter and Weekly List would serve that purpose.

BEG48 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH FRIENDS

The Chairman reported that there had been no further meetings with the Friends of Bridge End Gardens since the last AGM.

BEG49 POSTCARD OF MOSAIC TILE

The Chairman informed the Group that Councillor Jones had suggested that a postcard of mosaic tile should be published for the Gardens.

The Project Manager reported that he had discussed the publication of a postcard with the local tourist information officer and other colleagues and the following three ideas were floated

- (i) A new leaflet about the Bridge End Gardens could be published;
- (ii) A postcard with four pictures could be published of which one picture would be of the mosaic tile and three other pictures of the Gardens;
- (iii) A WEB page giving a virtual tour of the Gardens could be developed.

Councillor Hughes and Councillor Pedder liked the idea of a postcard with four pictures. Councillor Hughes suggested that copies of the tile could be developed as a souvenir and this would be additional publicity for the Gardens.

The Chairman suggested that there was a need to boost tourism in Saffron Walden. Bridge End Gardens could be included as a tourist attraction in association with the promotion of Cambridge and London tourist attractions.

BEG 50 NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 26 April 2004 at 4.30 pm at the Council Offices, Saffron Walden.

BEG 51 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Cycling

Councillor Hughes reported that there were cyclists using the Gardens.

The Project Manager advised that staff drew such matters to the attention of any offender. The time when the gates of the Gardens should be locked would need to be discussed at a future meeting and this would assist to solve such problems.

The meeting ended at 5.10 pm.