

**BRIDGE END GARDENS TASK GROUP held at the COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.30 pm on 22 JANUARY 2007**

Present:- Councillor D J Morson – Chairman.

Councillors B M Hughes and A J Ketteridge.

Also present:- Mr C Goldie.

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

**BEG128 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R P Chambers and R F Freeman.

**BEG129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hughes declared a personal interest as a member of the Friends of Bridge End Gardens.

**BEG130 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**BEG131 BUSINESS ARISING**

Mr Goldie confirmed that the Friends had discontinued the opening of the Maze after October last year but were happy to discuss with the Council the reopening of the Maze from Spring 2007.

**BEG132 RESTORATION PROJECT – PHASE 2: RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF  
WALLED GARDEN**

John Bosworth reported that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had considered the Council's Phase 2 application for the re-establishment of the Walled Garden and had awarded a grant of £196,000. The HLF had confirmed their permission to start work and had forwarded a cheque for 50% of the total grant. Councillor Ketteridge asked about the arrangements for interest accruing on this sum and Diane Burridge agreed to find out details about these arrangements and advise Members of the Task Group accordingly.

John Bosworth said that the total cost of the project together with contingency and inflation was approximately £224,000. The Council had set aside £20,000 and other partners had made financial contributions including the Town Council, The Friends, Waitrose, Essex Gardens Trust, Tony Fry and co-trustees, Saffron Walden Horticultural Society, Dunmow Historical Society and

Charles Goldie. He added that if the project was successful there was a possibility that Waitrose might sell some of the produce in the Saffron Walden store.

He drew attention to an error in paragraph 15 of the written report and then outlined the HLF requirements, staffing costs and the requirements of the Council's contract standing orders. He said that a number of social partners including The Friends, many of the local schools, the North Essex Mental Health Partnership, the Harlow Youth Offending Team and Saffron Sight had committed themselves to assisting in the restoration project. Also, the educational aspect would be promoted in association with the Education Officer based at the Museum and the Council's Health Promotion Officer had advised that she would be developing health initiatives. Twelve horticultural training sessions would be devised in which local interested persons could participate.

In answer to a question from Councillor Ketteridge, he confirmed that the greenhouses were of aluminium construction but profiled in a Victorian mould and would be low maintenance with a long guarantee period.

He then outlined the proposed contracting process and said that the HLF had confirmed that the procurement procedures as set out in the report, with some modifications required by them, were satisfactory. He said that four tender prices would be sought for the supply of greenhouses and brick bases. The contract for the shelter, seat, etc would be awarded to Reynolds Joinery in accordance with the quotations received in 2006 and the provision of the Auricula theatre would be awarded to Reynolds Joinery based on the fact that the contract was regarded as being extended for similar work. HLF had confirmed their agreement to these proposals. HLF also accepted that the collective provision of the various ironwork items could be regarded as three different contracts and had confirmed that the provision of plants would need to be obtained from ad hoc suppliers. However HLF had advised that three quotations for the provision of York Stone would need to be provided. John Bosworth said that the advice he had received regarding health and safety was that the Kitchen Garden should be closed during building operations. He also reported on the arrangements for the relocation of the Memorial Seat that formed part of the restoration proposals and which Members had previously discussed

Diane Burridge said that interviews for the appointment of a Restoration Manager would be held on 24 January 2007.

The Task Group gave their full support to the full arrangements as set out above and it was noted that these would be considered by the Environment Committee at its meeting on 23 January 2007.

The Task Group expressed their thanks to John Bosworth for all his hard work in making the successful bid and in providing a thorough report.

The meeting ended at 5.10pm.