

Whiteley Parish Council

Strategic Development and Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held at Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley on Wednesday 22nd September 2010 at 8pm.

Parish Council Committee members present: David Jenkins (Chairman), Colin Bielckus, Kairen Goves, Al Menzies, Pat Thew.

Parish Councillors: Brian Hughes and Lydia Newman, two members of the public, Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence** Mike Evans, Roland Diffey.
- 2. To receive declarations of interest regarding agenda items** None.
- 3. To adjourn meeting to allow participation by members of the public**
Members of the public were interested in agenda item 4.3 and their questions were answered during members' discussion.
- 4. Meeting resumed to consider the following agenda items:**

4.1 To review issues concerning proposals for North Whiteley and reports to be made to the North Whiteley Development Forum. **The localism agenda promoted by the new Government was discussed, although WCC is looking to consult communities again on housing numbers following the abolition of the South East Plan it appears the major development areas such as Whiteley, West of Waterlooville and the North Fareham SDA are outside of the influence of local people. It was felt the Parish Council should not accept this and that the cancellation of the Hedge End SDA would affect infrastructure viability for Whiteley. It was agreed to produce an article for the next Whiteley Voice on the changes to the planning system as a result of the new Government. Action Clerk**

4.2 To review issues concerning Whiteley Village redevelopment and proposal for hub/library/facility for young people **At a meeting held on 2nd September attended by Cllr Evans, Cllr Thew, Clerk, DC Leisure, WCC and HCC Libraries it was confirmed by HCC that there was no funding available towards the provision of a library in Whiteley. Research shows that a significant number of Whiteley residents use the busy Fareham Library and along with the weekly visits by the mobile library the identified needs for the area were being adequately met.**

However it was confirmed that HCC is looking for major savings in the library budget and the mobile service may be at risk.

Two alternative options were offered: an unmanned library pod with self service technology or a vending machine. HCC suggested either option would work in a café or similar area. The possibility of a café was discussed with DC Leisure who advised it would not be a financially viable use for the hub extension if they were to manage it.

It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that with regret, the library provision within the hub no longer be pursued.

It was agreed to prepare an article for the next Whiteley Voice promoting the mobile library with a 'use it or loose it' by-line.

4.3 To consider opportunity offered by Winchester City Council to take responsibility for Meadowside recreation ground, skatepark, play areas and landscaped areas at the end of the current maintenance contract in 2011 and make recommendation to Full Council. Report from meeting with WCC 13th September. **Following a significant number of meetings with WCC, required information remains outstanding. Some progress is being made and the Clerk circulated a paper to detail the current position.**

It was agreed that residents would be invited to the Full Council meeting on 6th December where there would be an opportunity to ask questions about the proposals and to offer their views. A flyer outlining the proposals with an invitation to the meeting to be included in the November edition of the Whiteley Voice.

It was agreed to circulate the draft paper to all councillors.

4.4 To receive update on planning for improved access to Whiteley from the Highways Working Party **Refer to next meeting.**

4.5 To carry out annual review of Council policies and procedures, proposal to recommend the following to Full Council:

4.5.1 The adoption of revised Standing Orders **Agreed to recommend the revised Standing Orders to Full Council for adoption.**

4.5.2 The review and adoption of the Operational Structure **Agreed to recommend no amendments to the existing Operational Structure.**

4.5.3 The adoption of a Community Engagement Strategy **Agreed to recommend to Full Council for adoption.**

4.5.4 The adoption of a Training Strategy **Agreed to recommend to Full Council for adoption.**

5. **To identify any unmanaged risks within this committee's remit** The risks involved with the proposed devolution referred to in agenda item 4.3 are being fully explored.
6. **Review effectiveness of communication, development of links with other community organisations and support for local democracy through making information more widely available** Proposals to raise awareness of the impact on Whiteley residents of the exhaustion of the Whiteley Fund outlined in agenda item 4.3 above.
7. **Recent correspondence / reports from meetings of relevance to this committee** Reports on relevant meetings included in agenda items 4.2 and 4.3 above.