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HEYWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Monday 11th March 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Rush (Chair); Councillors Beswick, Dutton, Malcolm, McCarthy, O'Rourke, Robinson and Wardle

OFFICERS: Chris Woods and Ian Trickett (Neighbourhoods Directorate) Fay Davies (Children's Services Directorate) Stuart Hay and John Addison (Resources Directorate)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 45 Members of the Public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Susan Emmott

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

87 There were no declarations of interest.

URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

88 There were no urgent items of business.

OPEN FORUM

89 The following matters were raised as part of the Open Forum:-

a) Spatial Framework

A Member of the public raised a concern about new housing on Bamford Road and the lack of information being provided. The Committee informed residents that since the appointment of the Greater Manchester Mayor there had been changes to the spatial framework that had land added to it and removed for development. It was reported that the Council had to build a significant number of new build houses set by the Government and that the Council had less powers on where the developments could take place.

Member encouraged residents to log on to the GMFS website and add their comments to the spatial framework and the land up for development consideration.

b) Heywood Post Office

Residents raised concerns that Heywood Post Office was to close and move into part of another shop without consultation. Concerns were raised that without a dedicated Post Office Heywood would suffer and that the service offered via another shop offered no assurances that the service would be available long term.

Members shared residents' concerns and unanimously opposed the closer and was looking to do all it can to keep the Post Office in Heywood.

MINUTES

90 RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Township Committee held on 14th January 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

ITEMS FOR EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

91 There were no items of business under this item.

METRO MONEYWISE CREDIT UNION - PRESENTATION

92 Members received a presentation on Metro Moneywise and its association with Rochdale Borough Council, outlining its benefits and key services.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

HEYWOOD NEW ALLOTMENTS PROVISION

93 The Director of Neighbourhoods presented a report of proposed sites in Heywood for allotment provision. Members were informed that Rochdale Borough had 524 allotment plots across the Borough but this was not enough to meet demand and was less than half the amount the Government recommends. It was noted that demand for allotments had boomed nationwide with a massive increase in requests for leisure allotments from people who are still in fulltime employment and young families. It was reported that as of 25th February 2019 there were 985 people on the waiting list for an allotment in the Borough, more than quadruple what it was four years ago.

Members were informed that Environmental Management Service had been tasked with creating 100 new plots a year, every year, for the next 5 years. This had been approved by Cabinet with provisionally allocated Capital funding to enable delivery. It was noted that Heywood's allocation of allotments would be between 80 and 90 in total over the 5 years.

Members were informed that the next steps of the planning stage of the project was to identify viable sites for individual Township Approval. Environmental Management Service had been working with Planning & Estates to create a list of potential sites for Township consideration. A number of sites were provided to Members for consideration.

In response to Members questions it was noted that the sites identified were just officer suggestions to aid Members, but sites could be ruled in or out during the consultation which the Township was being asked to approved starting. A number of Residents had attended the meeting to raise concerns about the proposed sites.

It was confirmed that no decision had been taken and that Officers and township Members would be undertaking consultation and site visits before any recommendations would be put to the Heywood Township.

A petition from local residents opposing the use of Harwood Park School playing field for allotments was handed in to the Committee and it was agreed that a site visit be undertaken, involving Members and residents.

RESOLVED

That Members approve the start of consultation on potential sites in Heywood to new allotments with Members undertaking site visits to suggested sites as contained with the report.

HEYWOOD GRASS VERGE MANAGEMENT

94 Members received a report on grass verge management in Heywood from the Director of Neighbourhoods. It was reported that the Environmental Management Service had been tasked with delivering new methods of grass verge maintenance to deliver improved appearance, improved wildlife value and reduced pollution from fuel use by strimmer's and mowers whilst also reducing maintenance costs. This was to be achieved with a roll out programme to the majority of sites over a number of years.

The report identified a number of sites in Heywood and alternative methods of maintenance for Members to consider. It was noted that when rollout was imminent Environmental Management Services would carry out extensive public information using a range of media to ensure the public know what is happening and the benefits that would be achieved.

RESOLVED

That Members approve the shortlisted sites provided and that the trial of alternative maintenance be informal flowering not chemical treatment.

HEYWOOD CAR PARKS - INTRODUCTION OF TIME LIMIT

95 The Township received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods on the Committee's intention to introduce a 3-hour time limit on three Heywood Town Centre Car Parks that had been advertised and 18 objections received.

Members were reminded that Heywood Township Committee had commissioned the introduction of some time limit restrictions on three of the car parks situated in Heywood town centre. This was intended to promote a turnover of spaces and remove long duration or all-day parking from the car parks in question and encourage visits to town centre shops and amenities in Heywood.

It was noted that the three car parks were at the Civic Centre, Hill Street and Taylor Street. It was noted that the intention was to impose a time limit of 3

hours and no return within one hour during the period of 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and the car parks would remain free to use.

Members received representation from the objectors who were mostly business owners and employees directly affected by the order. Concerns were raised about the impact of parking to get to work, cost of permits if they were introduced and the impact of their customers who required longer than 3 hours.

Members considered the concerns raised and noted that in total there were 17 free to use car parks in Heywood. Members stressed that the proposed limit was a response to complaints the township had received over a number of years of the car parks being used by commuters out of Heywood, affecting parking for visitors to local shops.

RESOLVED

That the Committee approve the proposed Traffic Order, Borough of Rochdale ((Civil Enforcement of Traffic Contraventions) (Off-Street Parking Places) (Tariff and Operational Hours) Order 2017) (Amendment) (No.2) Order be implemented as advertised.

THE NEED FOR EXTRA PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES 2019 - 2023

96 The Director of Children's Services provided the township with a report that reminded Members of the need to keep under review the need for extra class places in each Township. The report set out proposals to address the need for extra Reception places.

RESOLVED

That the Township note the proposals to increase capacity at Schools within the Township based on expected future requirements.

THE NEED FOR EXTRA YEAR 7 SCHOOL PLACES 2019-2028

97 The Director of Children's Services provided the township with a report that identified Strategies for managing the predicted shortfall in year 7 places for the intake year of 2019 and 2020. It was reported that the school's team was working to aid the DfE and any successful academy to open a new school in the borough for September 2021 for future places that were needed.

Members were informed that the government had made an announcement that they would fund all special school applications that "meet the criteria". It was reported that Rochdale Council had submitted an expression of interest to have a new secondary special school specializing in Autism and Communications special needs.

RESOLVED

That Township note the announcement about special schools made by the government and that a site will need to be identified for the school.