

CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

27 March 2012

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Cath Hill (Culture, Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, (Neighbourhood Management)
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Helen Beaman, Environment Co-ordinator
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

23. North Linear Park (Central Park) *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of project progress and to seek approval to proceed with plans for Central Park.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report sets out the background to the North Linear Park project, including the problems experienced with Central Park and provided information on plans for the future use of this site.

The Assistant Director referred to the key aims of the proposal as set out in the report. Appendix 1A showed the proposed improvements for Central Park and Appendix 1B highlighted where the road would be to facilitate the development of the Steetley site.

With regard to the risk and financial considerations, to date £18,295 had been secured by the North Linear Park Steering Group. £3,295 from Hartlepool Borough Council's Parks and Countryside section for the development (and any associated consultation) of the plans for both the

Clavering and Central estate priority areas, and £15,000 from Minor Works to act as match funding and assist with leveraging in other monies to implement the works. In addition, funding had been acquired through the disposal of the eastern portion of the land associated with the potential new road. The amounts involved were £20,000 towards the gateway, £25,000 upon exchange and a further £100,000 upon completion of the sale, however, this amount will be over a 1 to 2 year period.

Details of other potential sources of funding were set out in the report.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report in relation to the progress of the North Linear Park project, be noted.
- (ii) Subject to appropriate permissions being granted, the proposed master plan for the future use of the large open green space on Central estate, be approved.

24. Golden Flatts Community Woodland Consultation (Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the consultation work undertaken in relation to the Golden Flatts Community Woodland, seek approval for the resultant master plan developed in consultation with local communities and approve officers progressing with the proposals it contains.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report included background information in relation to the development including details of the subsequent consultation exercises undertaken to arrive at the proposed community woodland master plan. The consultation process included, internal discussions, public displays, press releases, leaflet distribution, letters/e-mails, online questionnaires, school consultation as well as public consultation. The report included feedback in response to the consultation process. It was noted that 82% of public respondents welcomed the idea of a proposed community woodland at Golden Flatts and 10% were undecided. Respondents at the drop in sessions generally provided positive comments, details of which were included in the report. However, concerns were raised during the drop-in consultation sessions regarding the possibility of anti-social behaviour. IN order to address these concerns, a key aim would be to develop community and neighbourhood police involvement for this area.

Following consultation feedback it was clear that a plan merging elements from both designs used in the consultations would be appropriate to use as a potential master plan, attached at Appendix 1. The community woodland master plan sets out the overall vision for future developments in relation to the community woodland, the main features of which were detailed in the report. The report included details of the financial and asset management considerations in relation to the proposal.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased to support the proposed master plan and looked forward to implementation of the scheme.

Decision

- (i) The Portfolio Holder approved the master plan that has resulted from extensive local community consultation as a template for the future development of Golden Flatts Community Woodland.
- (ii) That officers be authorised to progress with the phased implementation of the Golden Flatts Community Woodland scheme subject to appropriate external funding being identified; and any relevant planning permissions/ statutory notifications or similar elements of the scheme being obtained as required.

25. Allotment Rules and Regulations *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key – for information

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the updated Allotment Rules and Regulations of Tenancy 2012.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided background to the Allotment Rules and Regulations and Annual Tenancy Agreements as part of the Allotment Strategy 2010-15. It also outlined the necessity for standardised, clearly understandable and practically enforceable rules and regulations for all allotment tenants in the Borough of Hartlepool.

The report included the main issues on allotments and how the rules would ensure that these could be dealt with effectively. The Rules and Regulations of Tenancy were intended to raise the standard of allotment plots within the Borough and to ensure they were used in accordance with their purpose as defined in the Small Holdings and Allotment Act 1908 and

subsequent allotment legislation.

Consultation in relation to the review of the rules and regulations had taken place with allotment representatives, details of which were set out in the report. It was proposed that the rules and regulations would be introduced in April 2012 and tenants would be notified of any further revisions to these on an annual basis. A draft copy of the proposed Allotment Rules and Regulations of Tenancy was attached at Appendix A.

The Portfolio Holder referred to an individual complaint that she had received from a tenant which she would discuss with the officer following the meeting.

Decision

That the rules and regulations of tenancy 2012 and their fundamental importance to the Allotment Strategy 2010-15 be noted.

26. River Tees Rediscovered: HLF Landscape Partnership Bid *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the involvement of officers of Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Section and Tees Archaeology in the River Tees Rediscovered Landscape Partnership Bid.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Heritage Lottery Fund 'Landscape Partnerships' programme was based on a range of local regional and national organisations joining together to bring a range of benefits to a distinct landscape area (between 20 – 200 sqkm). Grants of up to £2 million were available.

Tees Archaeology and Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Section were part of a wide ranging partnership that was developing a scheme based on the River Tees and extending from the mouth of the River up to Piercebridge. The project was being led by Groundwork North East and the bid would be for £1.9m.

If successful the project would be implemented by all the partners. These included the local authorities of the bid area and organisations such as Groundwork North-East, the RSPB, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, River Tees Trust and Tees Archaeology. A decision on the bid was expected in June 2012.

The River Tees Rediscovered Landscape Partnership Bid would deliver a

number of the aims and objectives of the Parks and Countryside Section and Tees Archaeology. It would raise awareness of the natural and historic environment and improve access to it.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased to note the potential economic benefits to the town as a result of this project.

Decision

That the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10:35 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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