

Monday 8 December 2008
at 6.00pm



Scrutiny Committee

MEMBERSHIP:-

Councillor MARSDEN (Chairman) Councillor STANLEY (Deputy Chairman), Councillors BELSEY, GOODWIN, Mrs HEAPS, PURCHESE and Miss WOODALL.

11 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2008 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

12 Declarations of Interest.

None were received.

13 Fisherman's Green / Sovereign Skate Park – Monitoring report.

The committee considered the report of the Sport and Leisure Manager regarding the progress of the Fisherman's Green / Sovereign Skate Park Review.

Members were reminded that the final report was presented to Cabinet on 16th April 2008. The Cabinet decision was to consider the proposals within the report alongside future capital spending plans for the Council at a future meeting. Cabinet approved the recommendations at their meeting on 28th May 2008, however the timing of the decision meant that it was not possible to proceed with the refurbishment of either site prior to the summer due to tight timescales and the availability of contractors.

During the summer months officers working in partnership with East Sussex County Council secured additional funding (Play Pathfinders Grant) for the refurbishment of Sovereign Skate Park. A revised budget of £85,000 was now available for this project.

Further consultation on the refurbishment of Sovereign Skate Park had been ongoing between local young people, Councillor Mrs Banister and Councillor Mrs Heaps alongside Council officers. Further discussion had also taken place regarding the use of either wooden or concrete ramps at the skate park and members were keen that users would get what they wanted at the site. Members agreed that Councillor Heaps should continue to liaise with the Sport and Leisure Manager regarding the ramp material.

It was anticipated that the works at Sovereign Skate Park would be completed by 31st March 2009 subject to the availability of contractors.

Quotations had been received for the fencing works and the resurfacing works at the Fisherman's Green site and contractors would commence work

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early in 2009 with a completion date prior to 31st March 2009. Work on progressing the floodlighting was ongoing at both sites.

The following funding had now been allocated to the two projects

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|----------------------|---|
| Fisherman's Green | £156,500 (S106 monies) |
| Sovereign Skate Park | £50,000 (S106 monies) £35,000 (Play Pathfinders Grant) |

The Chairman requested a further update on the progress of the Skate Park at the January Scrutiny monthly meeting.

RESOLVED: (1) That Councillor Heaps continue to liaise with the Sport and Leisure Manager regarding the design and materials for the Skate Park.
(2) That the Sport and Leisure Manager report back on the progress of the Skate Park to the January 2009 Scrutiny monthly meeting.

14 Traffic Enforcement Review.

The committee considered the report of Traffic Enforcement Review Team advising members of the outcome of the review into the lack of traffic enforcement within Eastbourne.

The review was undertaken in acknowledgement of the concerns voiced by business groups within the town, notably the Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and Hospitality Association.

The Review Group decided that the review would comprise of a number of interviews, with representatives from the Taxi trade; both Private and Hackney, the Chamber of Commerce, Hospitality Service and a representative from East Sussex County Council on behalf of NCP. The Police, Ambulance Fire Brigade were also invited but were unable to attend.

Members had also requested some further information regarding the number of warning notices issued which were supplied at appendix 2 to the report.

Members noted that it was clear from the comments made that the lack of parking enforcement had a considerable impact on public transport, emergency service vehicles (anecdotal), and taxis, as well as effecting businesses in the Town Centre and seafront hotels. The lack of enforcement had also allowed dangerous repeated and continuous parking at junctions reducing visibility for both motorists and pedestrians.

Ultimately, it was felt that the introduction of the scheme would be beneficial to many people; freeing the movement of traffic and potentially reducing taxi fares due to less badly and illegally parked vehicles and there would be increased ability to have short stay parking in the Town Centre. However, it was felt that further work was needed with the car park operators to improve lighting, cleanliness and lifts within the car parks. It was also noted that further liaison with the County Council aimed at improving cycle lanes, cycle storage, motorcycle parking, the condition of the pavements and improved rail links, was also needed.

Councillor Goodwin advised that the Disability Involvement Group had also expressed concern with regard to the parking facilities in Eastbourne and would be working with East Sussex County Council next year to improve parking for the disabled in Eastbourne. Members agreed that the Council, in conjunction with the Disability Involvement Group, should write to the operators of the town's car parks requesting the improvements as suggested within the report.

RESOLVED: (1) That Cabinet be advised that Scrutiny requests that the Council, in conjunction with the Disability Involvement Group, write to existing car park operators within Eastbourne, with a view to improving the car parks within the town in line with the suggestions detailed within the report.

(2) That as part of the Enforcement scheme the Council urges East Sussex County Council to use any monies raised to ensure improved cycle lanes, motorcycle parking and improvements to pavements within the Borough.

(3) That the Council works closely with the local bus service looking at ways to improve the offer for those who travel during the very early morning hours.

The meeting finished at 6.33 pm.

**Councillor Marsden
Chairman**