

Joint Meeting of Newport City Council Officers, Langstone Ward members of Newport City Council and members of Langstone Community Council

27th July 2015

5.30pm at Langstone Village Hall

In attendance:

Cllr David Atwell (Chair)	Cllr Ynys Edwards (LCC)
Cllr Ray Mogford	Cllr Ted Jeffery (LCC)
Mike McGow (NCC)	Cllr Gerard Hancock (LCC)
Richard Wood (NCC)	Cllr David Barradell (LCC)
Cllr William Routley (LCC)	Cllr Christine Pike (LCC)
Cllr Carl Meredith (LCC)	Cllr Katija Dew (LCC)
Cllr Carol Bryant (LCC)	Heather Jones (LCC Clerk) (Minutes)

- 1) Purpose of the meeting – To discuss procedures to move forward with improving play park and siting of war memorial.
- 2) Verbal Presentation by NCC Officers – Mike McGow often project-manages S106 projects. This project would incorporate war memorial, playground upgrade and on-going repairs and maintenance for 20 years.

It was important to revisit the question of siting a war memorial due to opposition from community to building memorial in Maplewood plus some concern regarding underground drainage units.

Alternative locations need to be considered. This group would need to identify suitable locations where people can access a memorial safely, where reflection is possible and where an annual remembrance service could be held.

A proper consultation exercise would be needed to establish the views of all resident in Langstone. Consultation needs to contain information which will direct this group in how to proceed. It was important to get people on board with information from consultation that would be used.

- 3) Consultation methodology

Mike offered to put together a consultation document based on past consultations. Closed questions were desirable, with follow-on questions. A master sheet would be needed to compile answers. Need questionnaire to be eye-catching to draw attention to it and encourage completion. A questionnaire regarding the play park was already on SurveyMonkey and had received over 40 responses to date. A hard copy survey would also be required, however, in order to include all residents of Langstone.

- 4) War Memorial Locations

In the past, two sites in Langstone had been considered – 2 play parks. Mike had recommended that a memorial in the Centenary Field would be at risk of vandalism so Maplewood had seemed the better option. However, residents' opposition means that

Maplewood is no longer a realistic option. Mike had identified council-owned land in the area which could be considered as a site for memorial.

A map showing land owned by NCC was distributed. The Village Hall is not ruled out, although trees are a problem and would cause maintenance issues to any memorial situated there. Other areas of open space also need to be considered. LCC would be able to lease land from NCC at peppercorn rates. S106 funds could be made available. A shortlist of sites needs to be decided.

5) Project Content: Richard Wood

The original project to site a war memorial at Maplewood had included: construction of memorial and paving area (over tanks and pipes so shallow raft foundations would be needed); removal of play equipment and replacement with new; installation of two commemorative benches (WW1 And WW2 designs); replacement of gates; making good existing grass and planted areas.

The original project at the Centenary Field included: Drainage north of MUGA; levelling grass area; stripping MUGA and re-surface and re-fence; installing new goals and basketball hoops to brand new standard; Installation of two WW1 commemorative benches; Installation of picnic benches; Installation of adult fitness equipment; Tidying up fencing. If possible, vehicular access via Bramley Close (to which residents objected strongly in 2009) to enable maintenance. Of the S106 monies, approx. £250k would be available to spend on equipment. Play equipment costs easily identifiable. Budget can be set once "wish-list" has been decided.

Additional requirements may be identified as part of the consultation process

Village Hall also needs work done – this may be considered alongside this project.

The draft memorial design had met with general approval – no quotes obtained as yet and final approval will be dependent on site agreed, costs and availability of funds. May need to conduct competitive tender exercise depending on number of potential providers.

Moving forward, Community and City Councillors and NCC Officers agreed to work together on the project for the benefit of the community.

Action: Mike McGow to develop project plan and work with Richard re pricing and works at play park

Action: Richard Wood to work with Councillors re potential locations for a war memorial

Action: Richard Wood to work with Councillors re constructing a consultation questionnaire