

Note of the Twelfth Meeting of Langstone Community Consultation Working Group

Date: 16th May, 2016

Time; 5.30pm

Present: Cllr K Dew (Chairman)

Cllr L Duthie

Cllr Y Edwards

Cllr G Hancock

Cllr E Jeffery

Cllr J Litt

Mrs L Littler

Mr M McGow (NCC)

Mr E McKeand (LVH)

Cllr R Mogford (NCC)

Mrs C Page

plus 3 members of the community

Apologies for Absence: Cllr C Bryant (LCC)

Mr R Wood (NCC)

1. Update from MR M McGow (NCC)

Mr McGow stated that a meeting was held at the Civic Centre on Wednesday 11th May with representatives of Sutcliffe Play Company, the firm awarded the contract to refurbish the two play parks, NCC officers and Cllr Jeffery; the Maplewood Toddler Park (MTP) and the Centenary Field (CF). discussions were wide ranging.

Insurance cover will be provided by the contracted firm during the refurbishment, but NCC would also retain their insurance cover during this period.

Both sites will be closed during the period of the work, in the interest of safety, and no pedestrian access would be permitted during the renovation work. The management of safety at MTP would be comparatively easy, but that of CF would be more problematic. Two weeks notice of the closure of the parks would be given and maps would be displayed to show the schedule of development of the areas within the parks. Work and deliveries of materials would be permitted between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Special requests for working outside these hours, in case of slippage of time or bad weather, would have to be agreed between NCC and the contractors. LCC would advise those residents affected of any out of hours working by a leaflet drop.

All access to CF would be made via the temporary maintenance panel in Bramley Close and any road and pavement mess would have to be cleared as soon as is possible. Mr McGow hoped that all the necessary equipment would be delivered to CF by 6th June. All materials for both parks and the welfare centre for the contractors would be stored securely in CF. Cllr Duthie, of Ford Farm, offered additional storage place at the farm for any machinery. For security purposes, Gwent Police would be notified of the storage compound at CF and of the on-going work.

Mr McGow would be advised of any negative issues arising. Progress would be carefully monitored and problems actioned immediately. Strict control of the finances would be ensured. Mr John Clark of the independent company, Rynant, would be responsible for quality assessment of the overall work.

Dedicated work on MTP would begin on 13th June and it had been estimated would take 2 weeks to complete after the foundations had been laid. No access by the public would be allowed until the safety inspection had been done and the work approved. Work on CF would be on-going and was estimated to take 6 weeks..

2. Matters Arising

A resident of Rosecroft expressed her concerns about the expected additional parking in her street and of the noise of more children playing in the park. She was encouraged to ring the 101 service to report any illegal parking, which would be dealt with by Gwent Police. A list of actions had been formulated to minimise disruption to residents neighbouring CF. Much thought had been given to the layout of the new park and some of the equipment had been designed for noise reduction. The MUGA will have noise suppression rubber inserts in the goal area. Nothing could be done by LCC to stop the exuberant nature of children at play. New drainage would improve the possibility of flooding in CF and would render more of the park area to be used in bad weather.

Concerns about parking and access to CF from the entrance at the Park End flats were raised by two residents of the flats. It was agreed that a site visit by Mr McGow and Cllr Mogford would be made immediately after the meeting, for Mr McGow to explain the improved configuration of the access and to hopefully allay their worries.

Vandalism and anti-social behaviour were also raised. These negative aspects cannot be controlled by NCC or LCC, but would hopefully be self-regulating because of a wider age range of people using CF. The services of Gwent Police and NCC wardens could be called upon if there were problems.

3. Opening Ceremonies

After much discussion, it was decided that two separate opening ceremonies would be more practical – one for MTP and one for CF.

As Cllr Litt has been involved in MTP from the outset, it was agreed that she and her team of Cllr Duthie and Mrs Littler would plan that ceremony. They would decide the format, who to invite and what kind of incentive / reward to offer the children who attended. Friday, July 8th was suggested as a suitable date.

Action: MTP opening ceremony team decide a date to meet to discuss details.

A team from the remaining body of the Steering Group would organise the ceremony for CF and Saturday, 23rd July at 2pm was suggested as suitable, as schools would have broken up for the summer recess. It was hoped that the four children who had played such an important part in driving forward the project would be centre stage in the ceremony.

Action: CF opening ceremony team to decide a date to meet to decide details.

Action: Cllr Jeffery to contact Sutcliffe Play and Belway to assemble them for a ‘lifting the first sod’ public relations event during the week beginning 6th June.

AOB

Mr McGow is on leave until 6th June and a date for the next meeting, if one is needed, will then be agreed.

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 6.55pm
