

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Special Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 27th September 2004 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor P M Cox
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor S Green
Councillor B W Hayes
Councillor J M Howard
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor G Norman

Also present County Councillor Bailey, District Councillor Morrison and one member of the public

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crane and L E J Murfitt

2. HEALTHY LIVING/COMMUNITY HALL PROJECT:

The Chairman welcomed Cecilia Tredget Deputy Chief Executive and Chris Fennell Recreational Development Officer with East Cambs District Council to the meeting.

Ms Tredget outlined the results of the feasibility study carried out by Capita Symonds whose brief was to look at siting a community centre on land adjacent to St George's Medical Centre. The results of their survey were demonstrated by way of a power point presentation and accompanying documents circulated to all councillors present.

The Planners were not too happy about the site and the intrusion and impact a building would have on the neighbouring property. Building on this site did not leave any scope to extend should the need be established in the future for larger premises.

Following much discussion it was proposed that Ms Tredget and Mr Fennell come back to the Parish Council with proposals for the Paddocks together with finances, planners' views, Section 106 agreements, potential budget and information on external funders. The general public should also be consulted on the options. The Paddocks would provide ample parking for the facility and the extra land could be developed into a pocket park.

It was noted that the proposed community building would be owned and operated by the Parish Council and a sound business plan would be needed.

Ms Tredget would investigate new Section 106 agreements with a view to generating some extra income for the scheme. The Healthy Living project funds form only a small part of the overall scheme (£40,000).

The Chairman thanked Ms Tredget and Mr Fennell for efforts to date and for attending the meeting.

3. YOUTH FACILITIES MEETING:

Councillor Hayes reported on a very productive meeting held on 24th September 2004 and was pleased to see some new faces around the table including the new Vicar the Revd Rosemary Maskell, Brian Tulley ASBC Co-ordinator with Cambridgeshire Police and a member of the youth offending team.

Steve White Head of Youth Services with the County Council had provided information Youth provision at the new school. A specific policy for youth in educational establishments was in place and facilities at the new school would have a separate access from the main school in the foyer.

The County Council is obliged to continue with the youth provision they already have. It was noted that the youth club meets one night a week at the Community Primary and last week 13 people attended (11 – 14 age group) Currently there are 820 11 – 18 years olds in the parish and by national standards 25% are expected to attend youth clubs.

A survey of the youth attending City of Ely College carried out by Mark Peck to establish the needs of children showed the greatest need for sports (table tennis, pool etc) followed by baby sitting courses. 23.6% wanted a coffee and chat room. The Vine Fellowship currently refurbishing the Regal Bingo Hall has intimated they may have a suitable room available for a coffee and chat.

Mark Peck would like the names of the volunteers for youth work

Councillor Hayes outlined the draft report on finances and the various costs relating to youth provision. The County Council is aware of its responsibilities to youth but is strapped for cash.

Future meetings of the group will take place at six weekly intervals and the next meeting will take place at 2.30pm Friday 12th November 2004 .

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE