

## Community Enhancement Group

29th October 2020 - Zoom meeting

- \* Present: PR, JP, SM, CB & AS.
- \* Apologies: none received
- \* Minutes of last meeting 26.8.20 agreed
- \* Matters arising not on the agenda - none

Updates: -

1. Staplehurst Award - PR There have only been a couple of nominations so far.

Junior award - [REDACTED]

Adult award - [REDACTED]

Action: Add as a confidential item for full council to consider plus any others that Jean receives. Little bio pic to councillors to help them decide.

2. Parade disabled public toilet - PR This was discussed at the Finance and Strategy group. There is a general consensus to have this up and running but the financial cost is creating a major stumbling block. It seems that taking into consideration not only the cleaning costs but the water and electricity costs as well, it's looking close to £10,000 a year to open. Added to which there is no desire to raise the precept to fund it with all the COVID issues this year. Most of the redecorating work can be done at a minimal cost and using the Community Payback (inside is in quite good condition just a few bits of work including installing the radar key lock). [REDACTED]

The current contract for Bell Lane Toilets is up for tender now as it ends March 2021. Consensus that we want to continue to support the local trade but also have an obligation to get the best service for the best price.

Action: SM to supply other company quotation so full council can consider both.

3. Library repaint - PR We have the money to get this done but haven't been able to do it as it won't stop raining! Also, no one knows who has the key to the building as its currently closed due to COVID. PR will try and track down the Librarian. Probably a job for the Spring now.

4. Planters - GSG are managing these well. They have planted a few shrubs on the South side (nearest Pharmacy) and flowers in planters on North side (nearest Library). Other flowers are to go in, as maintenance free as possible, to add colour.

5. Wimpey Field - David George and GSG have done a lot of work (strimming with the new strimmer!) to keep it tidy. Hope to get payback team back there at some point.

- Access - nothing further after last meeting but we are hoping to mark out the new idea with pegs and get reactions (hopefully positive ones!).

6. SVC - Work bench in SVC shelter for SPC caretaker. Peter has organised a small

team and done a fab job bringing it in under budget too.

note: SCC have 3 units in the air raid shelters, all occupied as a favour. SCC have no objection to a work bench in the SPC air raid shelter but please understand that they do not charge any user for the use of any space in the air-raid shelter and can be told to leave at any time and for no reason with no need to provide alternative accommodation i.e. no security of tenure. This is so they can redevelop the site and use of air-raid space is not part of the lease.

#### 7. Surrenden Field –

a - Adult outdoor gym /exercise eqpt. - Noted that there is some of this equipment at the Redrow development. This is a nice idea but not sure how much use it gets. Might be worth trying to assess how much use the existing equipment gets to ascertain the need. Worth noting that the equipment is expensive and needs to be maintained. £10,000 - possibly grants available?

b - Pavilion - In the past the Pavilion was well used for all sorts of things such as changing rooms for football games, Summer Play Scheme and selling ice creams. Currently it's really a glorified store room for the Events group. It needs a complete refurbishment to get the maximum use from the building, selling teas and ice creams in the Summer (maybe community run). Events Group (Bob Ham) would like 6 toilets for events to use.

PR did some research into potential new buildings, new concrete base, electrics, toilets we are looking at £20,000. There should be CIL / 106 money & money from the events group available. Possibly grants available?

Action: to investigate grants and possible buildings to produce drawings of the idea to be able to present to full council.

c - paths - Proposal to extend the current path from the Northern end of play area to the exit at the Bathurst / Thatcher road end. Whites (who did the path) quoted for the whole thing.

Action: PR will get them to quote for that little bit. CB to investigate if Sport England would support with a grant for a running track?

d - Hedges were being cut by Forestry First but they had to grub out ivy and briar and broke their machine as well! Residents were concerned about the hedge becoming very thin and the lowering of the height. There was also damage to the play area surface which is being checked. The price also went up so it has been a bit of a small horror story!

Action - Can we all do some research on a b c and come back to AS so it can be collated to discuss at the next meeting.

#### AOB

\* Brick work at parade was repaired very nicely by MBC but is a temporary fix as it will be damaged by cars again. PR proposal to fix galvanised iron (won't go rusty) on top of the brickwork so that the bricks won't get chipped. Sen side bricks 2-inch square angle bricks are all right angles so that will be easy. won't rust. chambered 4 x 4 so angles a bit different so 30 m of each in 6 m each leant £590 + vat. So, there is a solution for money! Best to do sooner rather than later before too much

damaged!

Action PR and CB to confer and send conclusion to send to clerk for full council.

\* Telephone box - PR We have an offer to help to get it up to spec (BT engineer) - Some panes of glass need replacing and a repaint. Once repaired proposal to get books and plants in there as a start.

\* Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25th November 7pm

Group membership

AS Adele Sharp

HM Helen Miller

CB Colin Bowden

SM Simon McNeill

PR Paddy Riordan

JP John Perry

ZR Zara Rawlinson

SLR Sam Lain-Rose