

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD  
WAS HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Councillors Mrs Batty, Blackman (Substituting for Jessop), Burgess, Casey, Earle, Farr, Mrs Furlong (Substituting for Murphy), Hammond, Mrs Hook, Hook (Substituting for Mrs Morgan) Mrs Huggins, Hutchison, Hylands, Mitchell and Westerby

PART II

**14. GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL TREE POLICY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Streetscene seeking approval of the Council's Tree Policy to ensure that Gosport Borough Council provides an effective and consistent approach to its Arboricultural Services.

The Board was advised that this was a revision to the existing policy.

Members felt that at the next review of the policy, consideration could be given to simplifying it and using more simple language.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board was advised that the existing pollarding routine that was scheduled for the Cemetery and Southcroft Road would continue and occur every 5/6 years.

A Member raised an issue with a treeline along Heritage Way being too low for cyclists, the Board was advised that there were set heights that should be adhered to and if the trees overhung the public highway to contact Hampshire County Council.

RESOLVED: That the board approve the revision of the Council's Tree Policy (Appendix A of the report).

**15. CLIMATE CHANGE - TREE PLANTING SCHEMES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Streetscene seeking approval of the proposed tree planting schemes for Cherque Way and Grange Lane, to assist the council in mitigating against climate change and increase the tree canopy cover within the borough to assist with carbon reduction.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board was advised that the species chosen were chosen to be most suitable for the areas under consideration for additional planting.

The Board was advised that there were already 30000 trees within the Borough and welcomed that additional planting was being considered, particularly in a Borough which was 72% built on.

Members were advised that the public and community groups would be invited to support the scheme and contribute towards the planting of trees, through sponsorship and potential applications for external funding and or providers.

The Leader of the Council advised that he would like the Council to commit to facilitating the planting of 1000 trees in 1000 days and that the community should be engaged with to support and promote the initiative. The Board was advised that it would cost between £172-£200 for sponsorship of a tree, as this would cover all the associated costs.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board was advised that the planting of evergreen trees was less effective in offsetting carbon.

It was proposed and seconded that the recommendation be amended to include that the Council were committed to planting 1000 trees in 1000 days with the support of the wider community and youth groups.

It was clarified that the Council could approve planting on Gosport Borough Council land, but not land that was private or owned by Hampshire County Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the board approve the proposed tree planting scheme for Cherque Way to provide screening between Cherque Way and the new play area at the entrance to Alver Valley Country Park. That the board also approve the proposed tree planting scheme for Grange Lane to soften the landscape and create a natural wildlife corridor along the former sports field boundary with Grange Junior School allowing the council to continue its commitment in mitigating against Climate Change and that the Council commit to planting 1000 trees in 1000 days with engagement with the local community and youth groups.

## **16. GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Streetscene seeking approval to support environmental improvement projects throughout the Borough.

In answer to a Member's question the Board was advised that new legislation meant that any adult equipment needed to be located further away to equipment for young people than it was currently located in Walpole Park to protect them from injury and that investigations could be made in to equipment suitable for those with additional needs.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board was advised that further details would be added to the schemes if they were approved.

Members expressed a desire for improvements to other areas, particularly Kings Road, following recent vandalism in which the surface had been destroyed and welcomed that the potential for the toilets at the replacement facility in Nobes Avenue to be open to the public was being investigated.

Members offered suggestions for a facility in Priddy's Hard and it was also confirmed that the estimated cost for Nobes Avenue facility was set so as not to underestimate the potential cost and therefore ensure there was sufficient funds to pay for it.

The Board was advised that it was important to consider the overall cost of the Nobes Avenue project, including any demolition and waste disposal and were advised that maintenance of all of the sites for play equipment formed part of a 3 year rolling programme.

Members expressed disappointment at the cost of repairing incidents of vandalism at sites and it was suggested that the public be advised of the significant costs incurred when vandalism occurred.

Members also requested that consideration be given to the installation of showers at sites such as Alver Lake and Stokes Bay to enhance water sport facilities.

RESOLVED: That the board supports the inclusion of the projects outlined in this report within the draft capital programme for 2020-21 to 2022-23, to be considered by Policy and Organisation board and full Council as part of the 2020-21 budget setting process.

## **17. ANY OTHER ITEMS**

There were none.

**CHAIRMAN**

Concluded at 6.45 pm