

CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 20 AUGUST 2018

PRESENT: Councillors Carwyn Cox (Vice-Chairman), Judith Diment, Sayonara Luxton, Julian Sharpe and Claire Stretton

Officers: David Scott, Kevin Mist and Nabihah Hassan-Farooq

WELCOME

The Vice Chairman was acting Chairman for the Panel.

All attendees were welcomed to the Panel.

APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Clark and Shelim. Councillor Mills was substituting at the Panel.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stretton declared that she had a personal interest as she was a trustee of the Maidenhead Heritage Centre, part of the Drama Guild and also acted as CIC for some venues in the Maidenhead district. Cllr Stretton told the Panel that she would approach the items on the agenda with an open mind.

Councillor Luxton declared that in relation to item number 6- Oaks Leisure Centre that she was a trustee of the trust associated with the leisure facility. Councillor Luxton advised that she would approach the item with an open mind.

MINUTES

Resolved; That the minutes of the meeting be deferred for approval subject to further comments by Councillor Hollingsworth. It was agreed that these would be circulated to the Panel and agreed at the next meeting for approval.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the order of business as detailed in the agenda, be amended.

SMILE PRESENTATION

Sarah Hill, Lifestyle Co-ordinator and Clinical Exercise Specialist gave a presentation on the SMILE scheme being run at local leisure facilities in RBWM. The Panel were told that SMILE had launched in 2003 as part of a three year funded project and had initially set up 16 sessions in Community Halls and Day Care Centres. It was noted that there were currently upwards of 45 classes and activities on offer a week across RBWM. Members were told that the SMILE club was formed with a committee, officers and constitution. The main objectives of the club were preservation, protection and to improve good health by promotion and support of healthy lifestyles. SMILE had become a registered charity in May 2013.

The SMILE club provided both community and leisure based exercise classes. Members were invited to try the dyno bands which were used to improve muscle resistance and strength

conditioning. Activities such as Boccia, Curling, Short Tennis, Badminton, Table Tennis, short mat bowls, walking football, netball and organised walks were on offer.

The Panel were told that SMILE gym memberships were on offer at a discounted rate and that this had been provided through a partnership with Legacy Leisure. Gym Memberships and classes were available for free to those individuals who were over the age of 90. Membership included, supervised gym exercise, tailored programmes and induction, swimming and some exercise classes within the studio time table. Benefits of the SMILE scheme included a reduction in feelings of loneliness and isolation and helped encourage individuals to socialise in the community more. The scheme had also seen a great reduction in the risk of falls due to strengthened balance and coordination.

It was also highlighted that there had been improved physical fitness, improved functioning (such as gait improvement and to posture), improved confidence to carry out day to day activities, reduced risk of osteoporosis and improved cognitive functioning. In addition to these benefits it was also noted that there had been a reduced rate or impending diseases associated with older persons and that the pace of mental declination was reduced. Members were told that the benefits of the SMILE club which promoted physical exercise would be beneficial in reducing the increasing demand on primary and secondary health care, associated adult social health care costs, equipment and prescribing budgets. This in turn would enable and empower individuals to remain in their homes for longer whilst negating isolation/loneliness and would also encourage reaching government guidelines of 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week.

Members of the Windsor and Maidenhead SMILE Club were in attendance and gave brief speeches on the way in which SMILE had positively impacted their lives. The Panel heard that the club offered a service that mitigated loneliness and isolation and that the club had also organised outings such as Christmas parties, trips and walks. They had also worked together to create a newsletter and highlight the good work that they had carried out over the year. It was also highlighted that classes were inexpensive and that there were varied levels of ability classes on offer. The club offered support and helped build friendships to those who had been isolated or had lost confidence due to restricted mobility.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Members were invited to ask questions which included:

- Councillor Luxton asked whether there was any nutritional support or a post dedicated to education of healthy eating and lifestyle. It was noted that several sessions had been organised in the past to highlight the importance of diet and that there was a cooking demonstration being held on the 9th September 2019. The focus was on physical activity and that the introduction of a dedicated nutritionist may be perceived as more clinical as opposed to a social activity.

At the conclusion of the item, Members thanks the SMILE club Members and Sarah Hill for the good work and noted that this was an essential organisation which helped the lives of many and commended the work being carried out.

LEISURE FACILITIES AT ETON COLLEGE

Ian Mellor, Buildings and Facilities Director of Eton College, gave a presentation on the above item. Members of the Panel were informed that plans for the new leisure facility were at the pre-planning enquiry stage and that the planning application had been submitted on the 16th July 2018. The Panel were told that construction of the buildings was intended to start in the summer months of 2019 and that the proposed ESAC (Eton Sports and Aquatics Centre) building would be ready by late 2020 and the SSC (School Sports Centre) building would be ready in late 2022. Members were told that presentations to RBWM Councillors had occurred along with a presentation to Eton Town Council, Windsor MP Adam Afriye. A presentation to Eton Community Association and Eton Wick Village Association and an open invitation to all residents/businesses in the parish to open the exhibition had been sent out. All primary

schools in both RBWM and Slough Borough had also been sent invitations for the presentation.

The presentation included floor plans for both buildings. The Panel were informed that the SSC building would include a large sports hall and squash courts which would be primarily for college use. It was outlined that the community and public use element would be around the ESAC which would include a swimming pool with a smaller sports hall. Members were told that the ESAC would aim to be a discrete facility and would comply with the college's safeguarding policy. The proposal included weekday morning use to local non-fee paying primary schools and for local residents to be offered out of school hours use for an annual fee. The proposal included:

- Squash and badminton courts
- Indoor sports hall
- Large indoor 25m swimming pool with 8 lanes

Members were reminded that there had been a joint understanding between the Department for Education and the Independent Schools Council in 2018 which led to the guidance on physical activity. There had also been a national curriculum requirement for pupils (by the age of 11) to have swum at least 25 metres and that new reporting streams meant that schools would need to adhere to this more stringently. It was highlighted that 50 state schools in the Royal Borough were subject to meeting the national curriculum requirements and 30 schools in the borough of Slough. It was proposed that next steps included the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding which would seek to outline principles of how benefits to the community would be delivered. It was also highlighted that if planning consent was granted that the Memorandum of Understanding would be followed by a formal section 2016 which would require Eton College to provide community benefit.

It was noted that the current application did not include further facilities that would include:

- Dutchman's all weather and floodlit pitch primarily for football and could be made available for community use. TVAC would be managing the site for community use and their car parking facilities would also be utilised. A separate planning application had been submitted on the 13th August 2018 and would have a separate section 106 from the indoor sports facilities. This element would also support RBWM's Playing Pitch Strategy.

At the conclusion of the presentation Members discussed the following:

- Whether the 100% positive feedback collated from local residents extended to include an online survey? It was noted that all of the consultations and surveys held with residents were available along with all planning documentations on the RBWM portal. All consulted residents were also updated with new developments if they had opted in for communications.
- Whether the venue would be available for public function use, such as weddings? It was stated that there were no plans for public events to become a use of the ESAC facility and that the preferred use would be for sporting events. The use of the site for public functions could be considered at a later stage if there was sufficient demand.
- How often would the facilities be available for public use? It was highlighted that the proposal included details of 2-3 evenings per week with the possibility of early morning swimming use for public access and for clubs in the area such as SMILE.
- Is there a proposed name for the building? It was confirmed that there was no formalised name for the building but this would be looked at in later stages.
- Would there be a catchment area for the schools proposed to have access? It was stated that schools closest to the school's location would have 1st preference and that there were currently 18 schools within the wider catchment.
- Was there a structure to public access Membership such as pay as you go or club member restrictions? It was noted that membership was preferred or a pay as you use the facilities option would also be considered.

At the conclusion of the presentation and discussion, Members noted the presentation and agreed that the item should return to the Panel when more details had been confirmed.

OAKS LEISURE CENTRE

Dan Brunt (ReFormat Architects) and Kevin Mist, Directorates Project Lead (RBWM) gave a presentation on the above item. It was outlined that the proposal for the Oaks Leisure centre in the south of the borough would include an indoor wet and dry sports facility. It was noted that this project had been worked upon for the last two years and that it was at RIBA Stage Two report. There had been no planning application submitted as of yet but that there were plans to do so later this year. Members of the Panel were show visuals of facades and intended floor plans.

The Panel were told that the building would be partly trenched below surface level to ensure that there was limited impact to the settings surrounding the buildings and to reduce massing and scaling. It was proposed that there would be both wet and dry facilities on site and the access to the building would be from Charters Road. It was highlighted that there would be an increased number of parking spaces (107 spaces). Panel Members were told that there would be a 25m swimming pool with 6 lanes, gym facilities, a dance studio and spinning room. The design was aimed to be modern, inclusive of the surroundings by being open and that the approach to the building would be visible from the Charters Road entrance. There would be two separate buildings for the proposed leisure facilities. It had been proposed that there would be an open reception and café space incorporated into the design. The presentation showed the face of the building and it was confirmed that there would be some visibility to the swimming pool and dry sports area. The building would comprise of high quality materials which were both robust and modern.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Members discussed the following:

- Would there be extra congestion at peak use times? It was noted that there would be a spread of congestion, such as high levels of traffic around school pick up and drop off times, but that these in theory would be times when facilities use would be lower. There was further work to be done surrounding on street parking to increase flow of traffic.
- What is the timescale for completion? It was reiterated that there was no planning application at yet and that this would be dependant upon granting of approval. Further details would return to the Panel when more information was known.
- Did this project form part of the continuing work of enhancement of RBWM schools? It was confirmed that this would be similar to the projects erected at Cox Green, Furze Platt and that this would also benefit the community with regards to day time public access in addition to use outside of school times..
- Members discussed whether any feedback had been received in relation to the look of the building and its use of cladding? It was noted that all feedback had been positive and that the ambition was to be architecturally distinct. Panel Members were told that there was still work to be done with regards to the look of the building but that Sunningdale Parish had been positive regarding the design.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Members noted the presentation and commended officers for their ongoing work with this project and asked for this to be added to the agenda for November.

BRAYWICK LEISURE CENTRE

Julian Bullen from Clarkson Alliance gave a presentation on the above titled item. The Panel were shown drone footage of the excavation of the Braywick Park grounds. The footage shown depicted the ancient burial mounds and archaeological site which included a ring ditch. It was highlighted that there had been differing colours of soil which had proved of particular

interest to archaeologists working on the area and that the permeability of soil excavated was also being treated and tested. Members were shown footage which depicted large masses of top soil and it was proposed that this top soil would be used in the ongoing construction and development of the site. Members were informed that development of the site had not commenced as further work to understand the archaeology of the land was required first. It was noted that Roman and Iron age remains had been found on the site and more remains were being found which needed to be looked at and tested.

The Panel were told that there would be a segregation of waste and that further work was being done to recycle materials where possible. At present it was noted that there was a focus to raise the profile of the excavation and there were currently pre-commencement conditions in place. Members were told that all information had been sent to the Planning team and environmental health for further consideration and that further work into contamination measures had been highlighted. The drone footage provided would be reviewed periodically and it was intended that the drone would follow the same route as recorded but at later stages in development to show advancements on the site. It was proposed that a time lapse camera had been stationed and this would provide detailed high quality footage of the site and its development from the onset to completion. It was highlighted that graphics of the site would be loaded onto the grey boards surrounding the development and that these would change periodically to show the story behind the excavation and development of the leisure facilities. There was work and pending results to be returned from the specialist contractor, SANCTUS who had been working on the substantial testing and identification of samples. Members were told that a risk assessment was being carried out in respect of the remedial plan. The Panel were advised that how to deal with the contamination was at the options stage and there were 6 options available with the most likely outcome being an amalgamation of a number of the options for the best output and delivery. It was expected that costings and final proposals would be available by the end of the month (August) and that work around regulatory compliance was being carried out.

At the conclusion of the update, Members discussed whether there would be any further delays to the development. It was confirmed that there had been set backs due to the discovery of the archeological items of interest and that this would delay the project, however the ambition for completion was estimated at May 2020 plus or minus one month. It was highlighted that Maidenhead Heritage Centre had not been informed of the developments and remains found but that there was further work to be done regarding the storytelling, interpretation and history of remains found. Members were keen for members of the public to have high quality footage of the site and it was confirmed that this could be taken from the drone footage. Members welcomed the boards lining Braywick road and felt that the introduction of images of the site could be a great way to involve residents with the interpretation of the archaeology found one available. It was noted that Members were pleased with the progress of the site despite delays and were supportive of the interpretations of remains and the way in which Maidenhead's historical story could be progressed.

OLD WINDSOR LIBRARY EXTENSION

David Scott, Head of Communities and Highways gave a verbal update on behalf of Jacqui Hurd, Head of Library and Resident Services of the Old Windsor Library Extension. Panel Members were informed that the report had been heard at Cabinet and approved. The report highlighted the design and final arrangement which would address the lack of provision available. It was highlighted that this was a positive move forward and at the conclusion of the item, Members welcomed the changes and extension.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the report be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Sharpe suggested that the regeneration of Ascot High Street and cultural facilities south of the borough be raised as part of the CCOSP agenda.

ACTION- That the above noted item be added to the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED UNANMOUSLY; That the Forward Work programme be noted.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Panel noted the dates of the future meetings.

The meeting, which began at 6.30 pm, finished at 8.19 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....