

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Minutes of a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10th April 2019 in the Council Chamber, North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer at 9.30 am.

Members Present:

Committee: Cllr S Hester (Chairman)

Cllr M Knowles
Cllr B Smith
Cllr J English

Cllr P Bütikofer
Cllr N Smith
Cllr V Gay

Officers in

Attendance: The Democratic Services & Governance Officer (Scrutiny), the Democratic Services Manager, the Corporate Director (NB), the Corporate Director (SB), the Head of Economic & Community Development, the Health and Communities Team Leader, the Leisure & Locality Services Manager, and the Head of Legal Services.

Members in

Attendance: Cllr S Bütikofer (Leader), Cllr H Cox (portfolio holder for Leisure and Licensing), Cllr D Baker, Cllr N Dixon (portfolio holder for Economic Development, Business and Tourism) and Cllr N Lloyd (portfolio holder for Environment and Property).

Others in attendance: Mr F Sims – Chief Officer (NHS South and North Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group)

145. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr P Grove-Jones and Cllr B Hannah.

146. SUBSTITUTES

None.

147. PUBLIC QUESTIONS & STATEMENTS

None received.

148. MINUTES

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13th March 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

149. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Corporate Director (SB) provided an update on the significant issues that had arisen as part of the Bacton Sanscaping Scheme. The statement in full, taken from an email sent to Members has been included below:

“I am mailing you to advise you of the District Council’s position with respect to the Bacton

Sandscaping Project, following a difficult 48 hours of social media and increasingly media and email / telephone enquiries / representations to the Council.

Members will be aware of the development of the Bacton / Walcott Coastal Management Scheme (Bacton Sandscaping Scheme) over the past five years since the December 2013 storm surge event, which caused significant damage to business and residential properties in the communities of Bacton and Walcott and a loss of a large amount of cliff frontage in front of the Bacton Gas Terminal. Development of the project has involved extensive partnership engagement with the Terminal Operators (Shell and Perenco), local communities and strategic partners such as the Environment Agency and New Anglia LEP.

The project has gone through various stages of development and was the subject of formal planning application and marine licence consents last autumn, supported by a detailed Environmental Statement prepared for the project by Royal Haskoning DHV. The Environmental Statement covered a wide range of issues, including the fact that the cliffs below the Bacton Gas Terminal site was a summer nesting site for sand martins and proposed a scheme of mitigation to protect and safeguard these birds during the period of the proposed works this summer. Subsequently in March of this year planning condition discharge was sought in support of which a Construction Environmental Management Plan was prepared by Royal Haskoning, which again makes reference to the issue of sand martins on the cliff face below the Bacton Gas Terminal.

Following the necessary planning and marine licence consents being obtained last autumn, the Council resolved at its December meeting to award a major works contract for the Sandscaping Scheme and after a standstill period and contract discussions, Dutch company Team Van Oord were appointed a major contractor for the scheme in mid-February.

In the period since their appointment, the Council has worked with Team Van Oord to finalise the works programme and undertook netting of the cliff frontage below the Bacton Gas Terminal site so as to deter sand martins migrating back to the UK from establishing nests in the cliffs within the area of beach nourishment works, with alternative nesting sites being available in the cliffs immediately to the west of the terminal site towards Paston and Mundesley. These works commenced on 18th March and were completed during the following week. Last Friday afternoon we received an enquiry from the EDP asking about the netting of the cliffs and the story has developed over the weekend as part of the wider national #nestsNOTnets campaign which includes an online petition to Parliament about the use of netting by developers in conjunction with development sites across the country. The social media campaign has then been taken forward by the RSPB through their @naturesvoice social media platform with the organisation saying that the nature of the works undertaken to net the cliffs was not in accordance with their advice in terms of the extent of the netted area or the nature of the netting used.

We have held telecon discussions with the RSPB, Royal Haskoning and Natural England over the last 48 hours to try and understand how there is a difference of opinion over the use of the netting as part of this scheme and why this matter has not been addressed directly with us rather than on social media, given that the RSPB had commented generally positively to the planning application and condition discharge processes. It would appear that the RSPB officers might not have understood the extent of the area of the works across a 1.3 kilometre length of cliff and had a preference for the council to have used a bright coloured geotextile covering rather than a 20mm black netting which has been used on the site. These are the points of difference between the Council and the RSPB. A further point of difference is that whilst the Council had sought to net large areas of unvegetated cliff face where sand martins could potentially nest, including at heights above the placement of sand, because of the movement of earthmoving vehicles on the beach and

the pumping of sand onto the beach; the RSPB have expressed a view that the sand martins are used to living in active quarry sites and will probably not be disturbed by these activities as thought by the Council and Royal Haskoning. This will allow netting on higher levels of the cliff face to be removed.

Following conversations with the RSPB and Natural England at lunchtime today we have agreed that the upper levels of netting will be removed in the next 24/48 hours once our contractor has completed health and safety checks for its employees who access the site on abseil ropes. We have also agreed to meet further with officers of the RSPB directly tomorrow afternoon to discuss the management practices employed at the lower levels of the cliff - both in the area to be covered by placed sand and the active working area over which earthmoving equipment will operate in terms of noise, lighting etc to try and agree a maximum or minimum height at which the netting should be placed. We would expect that these discussions will perhaps see more than 50% of the current area of netting removed. Further discussions will also be had as to whether the existing netting will need to be supplemented or replaced with a geotextile cover.

The Leader of the Council, myself, Rob Goodliffe, Tamzen Pope and Ed Foss have been involved in these detailed discussions over the past two days, supported by a number of frontline customer services staff and the Corporate PA Team, who have handled a large volume of calls, email and social media messages expressing outrage at the position of the District Council in the use of netting in this scheme. This has been the largest social media storm the Council has been involved in with a very large number of people posting and commenting not being local and knowing nothing of the context of the cliff netting.

There is currently local and national media interest in the netting issue and we have worked hard today to come to an agreed position with the RSPB over the detail of the netting, whilst at the same time trying to provide context to the wider Sandscaping Scheme; however many of the posters appear not to be interested in the wider issues and objectives we face as a Council in seeking to protect our vulnerable coastal communities and in partnership with the Terminal Operators, the critical national infrastructure which is the Bacton Gas Terminal site.

I hope that the above note is helpful to you in understanding the position of the Council with respect to this high profile issue over the past 48/96 hours, but should you have any questions concerning the above, please do come back to me."

Questions and Discussion

Cllr S Bütikofer asked to place on record her thanks to all staff that had been involved with, and dealt with the aforementioned complaints.

Cllr P Bütikofer asked whether there was any merit in putting the original letters of response from Natural England and the RSPB onto the Council's website to make them publicly available for people to view. The Corporate Director (SB) replied that he was happy to arrange this, and had already asked officers retrieve this information.

Cllr N Lloyd asked, for the benefit of Members that were not aware, for an explanation as to why the netting could not be removed in its entirety. Cllr S Bütikofer replied that due to there being burrows at lower levels, the project could not be delivered if these remained occupied. As a result, it was necessary for the lower level netting to remain in place in order to deliver the scheme with as little harm to the wildlife as possible. She added that if the scheme were to not go ahead, countless homes and the wider community would be left at risk from future storm damage and further coastal erosion. Cllr S Bütikofer then apologised to Cllr B Smith for not requesting the necessary support sooner to help him

respond to the negative comments he had received.

Cllr V Gay stated that she was a member of the RSPB, and she questioned whether the organisation had acted correctly, taking into account the information that had been brought to light. She then seconded Cllr P Bütikofer's proposal to make the Natural England and RSPB responses to the initial proposal publicly available on the website, and added that it was important to recognise that social media was not an unmitigated good.

Cllr B Smith asked why he was not included in any meetings regarding the issues that had arisen from the netting, and stated that he was disgusted that he had not been included in any discussions with the RSPB as representative for Bacton. The Corporate Director (SB) expressed his sincere apologies to Cllr B Smith for the oversight. Cllr H Cox stated that she had also received pernicious emails regarding the netting issues, and agreed that the local Members should have been included in discussions. Cllr S Bütikofer expressed a personal apology to Cllr B Smith for not contacting him sooner, and stated that she did ask for him to be contacted regarding the issue the preceding day.

The Corporate Director (SB) informed Members that due to the content and number of emails received, the Council had contacted the MOD Police based at Bacton Gas Terminal, and Norfolk Constabulary to limit risk at the site and to notify them of threats to Councillors.

Cllr D Baker thanked those involved for the updates and asked what could be done in the future to improve the Council's response to similar situations. He added that whilst the Council's social media response had been factual, it was also fairly bland and did not provide an adequate response to the national outpouring of emotion. It was suggested that the Council should have foreseen the bad press received from netting practices elsewhere, and should have taken into account the difference in the extent and type of netting agreed to by the RSPB. The Corporate Director (SB) replied that there had been some reflection on netting practices picked up on the BBC news website, however installation of the netting had already commenced by the 18th March. He added that a meeting had taken place with the Council's partners two weeks after the netting had been installed, and that no issues had been raised by this point. Members were informed that Natural England were the Council's statutory planning consultee, and that they had been supportive of the project. In contrast the RSPB, who were not a statutory consultee had initially been supportive of the project. It was suggested that best practice should have been to make contact with the RSPB directly once the issues were identified.

Members were informed that the Communications Team had provided an initial response on the Council's website on the Friday evening, with a link to the relevant planning documents of the Sandscaping scheme. It was noted however, that the planning service had subsequently crashed and that the Communications Team had not been able to provide further substantial support out of hours over the weekend. Cllr D Baker suggested that it appeared as though a 24/7 Communications Team was now a necessity. Cllr S Bütikofer replied that she understood the concerns about social media, and knew that improvements were needed. She added that a request for additional support had been made to the LGA. It was suggested that the new Council would need to consider post-election whether additional staff or extended hours for the Communications Team was necessary.

Cllr B Smith stated that he had assumed that the RSPB would have been the first to be consulted about the scheme, and suggested that Sand Martins were known to nest in active quarries, therefore he did not expect that there would be many issues caused by the implementation of the project. He added that he felt installation of the netting without proper consultation was wrong. It was confirmed, following a question from Cllr N Smith, that the RSPB had been consulted originally as part of the initial planning consultation and

that this had been fully documented.

The Chairman stated that in some cases throughout the country, netting had been used to destroy habitats, though it was certainly not the case with the Sandscaping project. He then asked if there was a local naturalist that could help explain the reason for the netting on behalf of NNDC. Cllr M Knowles stated that unfortunately people did not want to listen to the reasons for the netting, and suggested that he had great admiration for the Corporate Director (SB), the Leader of the Council, and the rest of the team that had dealt with the situation. He suggested that no one could have seen the issue coming, and that the Council must now work to repair its reputation.

It was confirmed following a question from Cllr N Smith that the minutes and results list of the Development Committee meeting held on the 29th November 2018 were available on the Council's website.

RESOLVED

That links to the planning consultation documents of the Sandscaping scheme are placed in a prominent position on NNDC website.

150. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

151. PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

152. LEISURE SERVICES UPDATE

The update provided by the Leisure and Locality Services Manager aimed to bring Members up to date on the multiple leisure services managed or owned by the Council.

Questions and Discussion

The Leisure and Locality Services Manager informed Members that the service covered a broad range of areas that ranged from beach huts, to sports facilities and car parks.

On sports and leisure facilities, Members were informed that the Council had six facilities that it either owned or managed, of which three including Fakenham Sports Centre, Sheringham Splash, and Victory North Walsham were now being managed by a new contractor, SLM, trading under the 'Everyone Active' Brand. It was noted that there had been some upheaval in the updating of these facilities, but it was expected to bring big improvements to the facilities.

In terms of Sport and leisure participation, Members were informed that there had only been a 1% fall in visitors to the district's leisure centres, and that this was likely the result of people making the most of outside areas during the warmer summer. It was reported that the Sport England funded project that promoted activity in rural communities had come to an end after a one year extension, but the project had been widely successful with a throughput of 26,000 over four years.

The Leisure and Locality Services Manager reported that the Council's Sporting Centre of Excellence programme was nearing the end of its third year, with over 100 participants in total, some students were reaching national standards.

Members were informed that the new Splash site was progressing well, and that the replacement skate park had been completed. The Leisure and Locality Services Manager noted the concerns that had been raised about the loss of the wave machine, but it was suggested that the facility had been designed to suit its demographic. He added that it was hoped that the new facility would open in December 2020.

On the Cromer Sports Hub project, it was suggested that the project would effectively create a new sports village, and it was a great opportunity to increase usage of the facility, with projected completion expected in early 2020.

The Parkrun Project was reported to be an ongoing success that encouraged an increasing number of people to get active, with approximately 2500 registered runners, averaging 150 per week.

On coastal services, the Leisure and Locality Services Manager referred to the district's six blue flag beaches, and stated that the area was second only to Cornwall. He then suggested that he was hopeful that the Council would retain its excellent record. It was reported that warmer weather had brought higher visitor numbers to the coast, and that the RNLI had continued to provide a great service despite this increase. Cllr B Smith asked whether the RNLI had responded to any serious incidents in the past year. The Leisure and Locality Services Manager replied that the Council did receive reports on serious incidents, and he would forward these to Members. He added that incidents were not proportionate to the number of visitors, with only two to three life threatening incidents per year.

Members were informed that the first year of the Pier management contract was now complete, and that the Council's subsidy had been reduced, meaning that the profit share should now begin to return some revenue. It was stated that the Council's beach huts and chalets had seen significant improvements in bookings following the implementation of recommendations from the Task and Finish Group, with figures suggesting an approximate £14k rise in weekly let annual revenue and approximately a £28k increase for annual lets. Cllr P Bütikofer asked how such an accurate figure had been achieved for beach attendance in the Report, and it was confirmed that the lifeguards provided an average count service, which had been in place since 2007. Whilst the numbers were not 100% accurate, it was suggested that they did provide a good indication of visitors. Cllr J English referred to the increase in weekly let figures for beach huts in 2019, and asked if more growth in revenue was expected. The Leisure and Locality Services Manager replied that weekly lets were still only at 50% capacity, mainly due to the winter season, but efforts would continue to try and improve this figure.

Members were informed that the countryside service managed 14 different woodlands of various sizes across the district. The Leisure and Locality Services Manager reported that three of these sites had previously been awarded green flags, and whilst one had been lost, the Council was working hard to regain the award. Cllr V Gay stated that she had been unaware that Sadler's Wood had lost its green flag status, then asked what improvements the Felbeck Trust would fund. The Health and Communities Team Leader replied that funding had been secured for improvements where issues had been identified, such as improving access, providing additional play equipment, and restoring natural habitats. Cllr V Gay then asked whether these areas had been identified as weaknesses, to which the Leisure and Locality Services Manager replied that officers had acted in response to feedback, and could provide this information to Members if desired. The Head of Economic and Community Development stated that litter and other signs of human activity may have lost the site its green flag, and subsequently improvements had been made to litter-picking and other cleansing related schemes.

Cromer and Sheringham markets were reported to be stable, though it was noted that markets had shown signs of decline nationally.

The Leisure and Locality Services Manager informed Members that the Council's 30 pay and display car parks were its third biggest income stream, generating approximately £2.6m gross annually.

In reference to the new leisure service providers, Cllr N Lloyd stated that the aforementioned Everyone Active were still at the very early stages of managing the sites, and that concerns raised regarding the sale of Slush Puppy drinks had now been resolved. The Corporate Director (NB) stated that it was important to monitor these issues whilst the contractor was adapting to the Council's expectations. The Head of Economic and Community Development stated that both environmental standards and health and wellbeing issues had been included in the original tender, and that after concerns were raised, the contractor had replied that the slush drink was sugar-free, but they were happy to remove it from sale. He added that the contractors had been reminded of the overall image of health and wellbeing that the Council was looking to promote.

The Chairman referred to the car park at Pretty Corner woods, and noted that there was no charge for using this site. The Leisure and Locality Services Manager replied that he would look into this. Seasonal parking tickets were discussed and it was suggested that these could be marketed more effectively to the public.

RESOLVED

To note the update.

153. NORFOLK & WAVENEY ADULT MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY - BRIEFING

NHS South and North Norfolk CCG's Chief Officer – Mr F Sims attended the meeting to brief Members on the Norfolk and Waveney Adult Mental Health Strategy. He informed Members that the joint strategy covered both counties, and was aimed at improving services for people with wellbeing and mental health issues across the region.

Questions and Discussion

Mr F Sims informed Members that the strategy covered six key areas that included; focus on prevention, improving routes to services, supporting the management of mental health services in primary care settings, providing appropriate support to those in crisis, ensuring effective in-patient care for those in need, and ensuring integration throughout the whole system. He then stated that each commitment area had its own working group, of which each would have a range of stakeholders. It was expected that all work streams would be articulated and started by October 2019, and that they would continue post-publication of the final strategy.

Cllr D Baker thanked Mr F Sims for his attendance, then referred to mental health issues in North Norfolk specifically and stated that the region was above the national average for suicide rates in young men. He added that the Government had suggested that parity would be given to mental health to provide equal funding to physical health services. He then stated that the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trust were one of the worse performing in the country, now in special measures for the third time, and asked what could be done to ensure that adequate mental health services would be provided in North Norfolk. Mr F Sims reassured Members that work had begun to improve this situation, with an extra £400k being provided to improve suicide prevention services, with the strategy for

this being led by the Public Health Team. Improving identification of the signs of mental health issues was another area that had been given focus, and it was noted that the suicide issues with younger men in North Norfolk often appeared to be related to the less skilled workforce. Mr F Sims stated that the overall plan was to focus and pull together a comprehensive prevention plan.

Cllr P Bütikofer referred to the first commitment outlined in the strategy, and stated that as a magistrate, he knew that up to 80% of drug related incidents coincided with mental health issues. He then asked if cannabis had an impact on mental health and what could be done to address this. Mr F Sims stated that it was recognised that different parts of the country had varying issues, and that work was required in order to provide greater focus to specific areas. He added that a health and wellbeing hub was being developed in Norwich, and that people at risk needed to be identified sooner so that they could be signposted to the correct services. Cllr B Smith asked how this would help the isolated communities, as Norwich could be difficult to reach from Mundesley for instance. He added that the rise of Dementia was another grave concern and that areas of deep deprivation remained. Mr F Sims replied that the questions extended beyond mental health and concerned all health services. However it was reported that work had started in collaboration with the Rural Partnership to improve local services, and that some issues could be helped with greater digital connectivity. Additionally, it was suggested that GP's could be mobilised locally as well as bringing more mental health professionals to local practices to offer more services locally. Mr F Sims stated that at present, local services were often disjointed, and on some occasions, GP's were not ideally suited to treat mental health issues, therefore bringing more mental health professionals to rural locations could help to free up GP time. Cllr B Smith stated that it was also important for people to recognise their own issues and seek help. The Health and Communities Team Leader stated that the Norwich Health and Wellbeing Hub was a positive step, but reiterated that travelling to Norwich was not always possible, therefore it remained important to encourage better mental health services in the rural areas.

The Health and Communities Team Leader stated that occasionally people with diagnosed mental health conditions did not meet the threshold to be offered support, and asked what NNDC could do to help improve circumstances for these people. Cllr V Gay replied that issues in North Norfolk often pertained to rural isolation, loneliness and low income, therefore it remained important to continue to improve overall health and wellbeing through projects such as Parkrun, to bring people together. She then asked if any research had been undertaken to explain how people perceived their lives. Mr F Sims replied that he was not aware of this type of research, and suggested that there was more that could be done to improve connections between the NHS and the Council, and welcomed conversations to improve this interaction.

Cllr D Baker stated that although public transport provision remained relatively poor, he believed that something could still be done to improve access to services. He added that the charity 'Mind' had recently stated that there had been a 68% increase in young girls that self-harmed, and asked whether anyone was working with schools to address this and how much work was focused here. Mr F Sims replied that whilst he was aware that work was in place to begin to address these issues, the draft Norfolk and Waveney Adult Mental Health Strategy did not address issues within youth and adolescent mental health, as this was a separate piece of work.

The Chairman Stated that he had personally lost two friends as a result of mental health issues, and suggested that more training was needed to help people recognise the signs of illness and seek help. He added that prevention was still better than cure, and stated that the Council must continue to improve the lives of people living in the district, in order to help decrease the prevalence of mental health issues. The Health and Communities

Team Leader replied that the Council did recognise that debt was a key issue in many cases, and that the Benefits Team had been trained to refer those in need of help to the Social Prescribing Team. The Chairman suggested that NCC's mobile library service could offer some form of drop-in sessions.

Cllr B Smith referred to care homes, and asked why homes recognised as good by the Care Quality Commission were being closed, whilst inferior homes were left open. Mr F Sims replied that this question would be better directed to NCC, on the basis that many care homes were private businesses and the NHS only commissioned care into homes, as opposed to opening and closing them. He added that he had contacted the relevant officer at NCC to discuss the issue and look at the wider market of care homes across the county, to limit these issues in the future.

RESOLVED

To note the update.

154. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY A MEMBER

None received.

155. RESPONSES OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CABINET TO THE COMMITTEE'S REPORTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

None received.

156. BIG SOCIETY FUND – ANNUAL REPORT

The Report was introduced by the Health and Communities Team Leader, who informed Members that its purpose was to provide the Committee with an overview of the fund for the past municipal year.

Questions and Discussion

The Health and Communities Team Leader informed Members that the money used to fund the scheme came from a percentage of the second homes tax returned to NNDC by NCC, and it was noted that this funding would change going forward. She then stated that the fund had been brought in-house after its first year, as it provided the Council with a valuable opportunity to engage with Town Councils and the wider community.

The end of year summary reported that nearly double the amount of funding available had been requested, and with 36 grants being awarded in total, only two had been incomplete or withdrawn by the applicant. The Health and Communities Team Leader stated that this had caused the fund to go slightly over budget, though a small amount of reserves had been used to cover this. It was stated that 75% of parishes had now been awarded a grant over the duration of the BSF, and that the administrators were now actively encouraging applications from areas that had not yet received funding. In total, 203 BSF funded projects had now been completed, of which approximately 50% were either village halls or Parish Councils. The Health and Communities Team Leader informed Members that the maximum grant remained at £15k, though going forward it was possible that this could either decrease, or become subject to a requirement for match funding. She added that overall it had been a privilege to administer the fund and that she continued to receive positive feedback.

Cllr P Bütikofer wished to state on record the great job the team administering the fund had done. He then stated that he had four parishes within his ward that had been awarded funding, and in most cases these applicants had been asked to secure match-funding.

Cllr J English thanked the Health and Communities Team Leader, and stated that it had been a privilege to sit on a panel that made such a difference to so many lives.

Cllr V Gay stated that it would be good to know the range of organisations being funded, and said that she would not be supportive of match-funding being made compulsory, as it could make the application process more difficult. The Health and Communities Team Leader replied that occasionally the organisations that applied for funding held reserves, which meant that they did not require the full amount. She accepted that making match-funding a necessity could be difficult for some applicants and would take this into account. Cllr M Knowles stated that it was important for applicants to continue to be judged on a case by case basis, as some held substantial reserves.

Cllr B Smith expressed his thanks to the Health and Communities Team Leader and stated that Mundesley had benefitted from the fund. He then stated that there could be greater demands on funding in the future, and asked if the BSF money could be ring-fenced in any way. The Health and Communities Team Leader reiterated that the BSF was funded by a proportion of the second homes reserves, but noted that other projects were also funded by the same reserve, and in some cases these could take precedent.

RESOLVED

- 1. To note the success of the Big Society Fund to date.**
- 2. To recommend to Council that the Big Society Fund grant scheme should continue at its current level of funding (£225,000) for another year.**
- 3. To recommend that in consultation with the Chair of the Big Society Fund, a review of the funds' criteria is undertaken to reflect changes in funding, demand and need.**

157. SHERINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL PARKING TASK & FINISH GROUP - UPDATE

The Democratic Services and Governance Officer (Scrutiny) gave a verbal update on the progress of the Task and Finish Group, and stated that an interim Report would come to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee post-election to provide a full update and seek approval to continue.

Questions and Discussion

Cllr M Knowles stated as Chairman of the Task and Finish Group that consultations and requests for information had taken time to complete, and stated that it would be difficult to achieve a perfect solution, but at the very least, the Group hoped to be able to reduce traffic in the vicinity of the school.

Cllr P Bütikofer asked if there had been any progress on allowing parents to park at the Community Centre, to which Cllr M Knowles stated that the initial response from the Town Council had been negative, though there was a possibility that the decision could be reconsidered. He added that for a scheme that sought to encourage walking to be successful, parents would need to be convinced by the health and wellbeing benefits of the project, as opposed to reducing congestion.

RESOLVED

To note the update.

158. THE CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Democratic Services and Governance Officer (Scrutiny) informed Members that the Cabinet Work Programme had been completed for the year, and that Cabinet would not meet again until after the election.

159. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND UPDATE

The Democratic Services and Governance Officer (Scrutiny) informed Members that any outstanding items on the Work Programme could be reviewed by the Committee post-election to consider whether to include them on the Work Programme for the new municipal year.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all Members of the Committee for their time and dedication throughout the year.

The meeting ended at 12.22pm

Chairman