Droitwich Spa Town Council

St Richard's House
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Droitwich Spa
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25 June 2024

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **COMMUNITY AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** to be held at the Council Chamber, St Richards House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa on Monday 1st July 2024 at 6.15pm or at the close of the meeting of the Planning Committee if later.

Mark Keld
Town Clerk

PUBLIC SESSION

Members of the public are invited to attend the committee meeting. Time is set aside at 5.45pm to receive views or questions on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration before the start of the Committee meeting. Notice of these should be lodged with the Town Clerk by 1pm that same day at the latest. Members of the public may not take part in the committee meeting. Town Council Meetings are recorded for monitoring purposes.

NOTES

(1) Webcasting Members of the Council are reminded that meetings of the Council are Webcast on the Internet and will be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website. Members of the public are informed that if they attend this meeting their images and speech may be captured by the recording equipment used for the Webcast and may also be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website.

(2) This Meeting will be webcast and live streamed on the Internet. It is anticipated that all Full Council and Committee Meetings will be live streamed from June 2023 onwards.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

3. To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 3rd June 2024 *[previously circulated]*.

4. Community Grants – To consider the attached schedule of grant applications. For this occasion consideration is to be taken straight to the parent C & A Committee rather than initially through recommendation from the Appraisal Sub- Committee. This for the reasons of scheduling whereby the applications were received later than the marked June Appraisal meeting and in consideration that the next Appraisal Meeting is not until 2nd September 2024 *[schedule of listed applications and available grant fund confirmation attached for consideration]*.

5. Paris Summer Games 2024 – "Good Luck" Messages and Achievements Recognition for Droitwich Spa Olympians & Paralympians – To confirm that prominent banners have been arranged for display at St Richards House to convey a message of support to local swimmers - Matt Richards and Rebecca Redfern. The banners have been displayed from Friday 21st June 2024 and considerations continue for suitable recognition of any medal achievements *[for information].*

6. Proposed Events - Arrangements are being taken forward for two additional events this year. Publicity and further details will follow in due course.

   (a) A Bike Night for static exhibition of motorcycles in the High Street on Thursday 15th August (5pm to 9pm). The Event is an Initiative through the Wychavon District Council Place Board collaborating with the Town Council. The Town Council will support with Risk Assessments and Event Insurance cover as well as providing some administration and publicity.
   (b) The weekly Charter Market Service Operator has approached to request a special Christmas themed Market to run for two days on Friday and Saturday the 13th & 14th of December 2024. The date is noted for further discussion by the Charter Market working Group during the summer.
   (c) The Christmas Lights Switch - On Event takes place on Saturday 23rd November 2024. This date is slightly earlier due to the calendar dates this year and ensures that the illuminations are in place for 5 to 6 weeks until New Year *[for information].*

7. Victoria Square – Changes to Electrical infrastructure for Christmas Lighting - To note that Worcestershire County Council – Street Lighting (Environmental Services) have notified the Town Council of an issue with the ongoing power supply for the annual Christmas Lighting components in the vicinity of Victoria Square. Due to renewal of the wrought iron street lighting lanterns, there is a requirement to provide the Christmas Lighting power through an alternative dedicated connection – rather than sourced from the Street Lighting ring main. The existing arrangement and permission has been in place from 2006 and accords with the current specification for the towns Christmas lighting displays. The Street Lighting Team have proposed installation of a dedicated supply pillar to use with the Festive Lighting connection going forwards. The Town Council are grateful to WCC Street Lighting for their cooperation in providing a viable solution and absorbing the cost of the new infrastructure. The Service Provider and installations sub- contractor for the Festive Lighting have been fully updated in readiness for the 2024 Season *[for information].*

8. Vandalism and ASB- To update that recent incidents have affected Town Council assets. The large pedestrian bridge at Copcut Park adjacent Colford Walk has been targeted again with removal and theft of the hand rails. These have been replaced and the fixing bolts ground off to help mitigate against any repeat incidents. Earlier in the year retaining bolts were removed from the same structure floor boards. These matters have been logged and reported to the Police SNT.
   The suggestion of a wider forum through the Town Council to better coordinate a multi-agency approach towards reducing ASB and graffiti is proving difficult to organise. There have been some positive engagements with the Droitwich Litter Squad voluntary work, through the Wychavon Place Board, Worcestershire County Council Highways and the Police SNT, although interest and responses from wider Agencies and land owners have fallen short to date *[for information].*

9. Edward Winslow Commemoration proposals - To consider the attached suggestions provided by Councillor RJ Morris in consideration for a suitable commemoration for Edward Winslow.

Due to the suggested timescale being close to the period of Remembrance and then Christmas Lights and the various activities leading up to Christmas it is suggested that the consideration is delegated to a working party to decide on the format, available scope and costs provision for any arrangements. To also note that the period from November 2024 – March 2025 is also being tentatively aligned in the operational forward planning for building works for the anticipated improvements to the Heritage Centre. To consider setting up a working Group.

10. Natural Networks Project – To update that the following phases are expected to be taken forward in the next few weeks.
    (a) Spring Meadow – Installation of 4 new benches and 1 bug hotel. Construction and filling out with native plant species of two new raised beds next to the pathway entrance from Mulberry Tree Hill.
    (b) Copcut Park – Installation of 1 bug hotel, and various high level bird boxes and bat boxes positioned towards the mature tree canopies. The Footpath improvement works are also expected to begin imminently
    (c) In general for both areas - Bulb planting, additional trees, Wildflower meadow seeding and other aspects will all follow on a phased basis to accord with the forward plan through until anticipated project completion by December. Further updates will be provided as progress continues *[for information]*.

11. To consider the exclusion of the Public and Press by passing the following motion:

    That the press and public be now excluded from the meeting under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by virtue of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involves financial and legal matters.

12. Bus Shelter Replacement proposals- To consider the attached report of asset replacement options. The details are confidential for the reasons of commercial and financial sensitivity. Any fiscal provision considerations should be referred through the Resources Committee for ratification following the period of heightened sensitivity for final decision making after the pre- election timescales leading up to 4th July 2024. The next scheduled Resources Committee Meeting takes place on 22nd July 2024 *[report and estimate attached]*

13. Community Banking Hub - Pursuant to minute reference 354/2023-2024 of the C & A Committee Meeting held on 26th February 2024 to update that an Interest has been registered with the Link Network Organisation in June as the next part of the process for consideration towards a suitable Community Banking Hub for Droitwich Spa. The Cash Access Consultant has responded and informed that their feasibility studies do not currently support a Community Banking Hub for the town. Their rationale is based on previously carried out public consultation work in the community. The following extract refers ,

    LINK have previously undertaken a thorough review of the community including analysis of population data, vulnerability measures, current free access to cash, and the level of provision of banking facilities within the immediate area. We have also visited the community in order to gain a more detailed understanding of the local circumstances. Our findings have been measured against set criteria given to us by Cash Action Group to ensure that all requests are treated equally and fairly. This can be found he re LINK / Overview of branch closures announced by banks since January 2022

They do acknowledge that the remaining Banking Services including the counter facilities at the Post Office may not be sufficient to support transacting regular business cash and deposits. Link have asked to be kept informed if there are any further significant changes to the financial sector offering locally. This initiative was originally a joint collaboration with the Wychavon District Council Place Board, which have also been informed of the response received *[for information]*.

Distribution:
All Members of the Community & Amenities Committee

Councillors: -
Mrs C Bowden (Chairman)

RJ Morris (Vice-Chairman)	Mrs K Fellows
EJ Bowden	N Franks
PD Clements	RP Hopkins
DI Davidson	Mayor (Ex- Officio)

Copy to All Other Town Councillors

Agenda for Information to:
County & District Councillors for Droitwich Spa, Subscribers, Press