

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 3 July 2014.

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor Anna McNair-Scott

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Frank Pearce

Councillors:

p Phil Bailey	p Fiona Mather
p Peter Chegwyn	p Patricia Stallard
p Shaun Cully	p Alan Rice
p Brian Gurden	p Tim Rolt
a Rob Humby	p John Wall
p Mark Kemp-Gee	p Chris Wood

Also in attendance:

Councillor Keith Chapman – Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside

53. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

54. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting, they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore, Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the

Items to be actioned on the Committee's work programme:

Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

55. **MINUTES**

Noting a typing error in Minute 49, the Minutes of the Committee, held on 8 May 2014, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Members expressed their thanks to Councillor Still for her leadership of the Committee during her tenure as Chairman.

In light of the change of Chairmanship of the Committee, following appointments by the County Council, it was agreed that Councillor McNair-Scott would fill Councillor Still's place on the Library and Information Service – Task and Finish Working Group, which had been established at the meeting held on 8 May 2014 (Minute 49 refers).

56. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that Lepe Country Park had been awarded £68,800 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to renovate the Royal Observer Corps underground monitoring post and provide activities for visitors to learn about the Cold War. This project was part of the delivery of the Country Park Transformation Programme.

It was announced that as part of the partnership project with the National Museum of the Royal Navy, the M33 had passed into the ownership of the museum on a permanent basis. This project was supported by an HLF grant and would see the ship made fully accessible to the public in time for next year's Gallipoli Commemorations.

The Chairman reported that Andy Smith, Head of Countryside, would be leaving the County Council after 14 years of service. On behalf of the Committee, she expressed appreciation for his contribution and wished him all the best for the future.

57. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

58. **INFORMATION ITEM:
HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST UPDATE**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 6 in the Minute Book.

The presentation updated Members on progress with setting up

the Trust, including legal agreements, the Trust's objectives and the timeline that was being worked to.

Members discussed the long-term future of the Trust, in particular following the initial five year period of County Council support. It was confirmed that the agreements being put in place were for twenty-five years and that the County Council had a long-term commitment to its success. It was questioned whether the Trust would be able to become financially self-sufficient and it was noted that funding would reduce slightly throughout the first five year phase, and then be re-negotiated based on the circumstances at that point.

A number of other issues relating to the future of the Trust, including the involvement of the public via "friends" arrangements, the collaboration between the Trust and significant institutions such as Winchester Cathedral, and the possibility of additional partners joining the Trust. The Executive Member for Culture and Communities was asked to comment and he explained that he was excited by the new way in which the Arts and Museums in Hampshire would be presented and predicted the success of the Trust.

RESOLVED:

The Culture and Communities Select Committee resolved to note the presentation and the progress of the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

59. **INFORMATION ITEM:**
TRANSFORMING OUR COUNTRY PARKS UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 7 in the Minute Book, regarding the transformation of Country Parks in Hampshire.

Prior to the presentation, tribute was paid by the Committee to the hard work of Andy Smith (Head of Countryside), whom, it had earlier been announced, was leaving the County Council.

The presentation provided Members with an overview of the Countryside service, of which the Country Parks were one element. The increase in the number of recorded visits over the past three years was highlighted, as was the increase in earned income, which had more than offset the reduction in County Council funding.

It was explained that the transformation programme was ambitious and aimed to increase the financial self-sufficiency of the Parks through a better understanding of user's

requirements and in particular improved weather resilience. The progress and steps taken to take this forward were outlined, in particular the consultation process, partnership working and cultural change.

The Committee was supportive of improving accessibility of the Parks and felt that access should continue to be expanded, but expressed some concern that if visitor numbers were too high then this in itself could be damaging to both the environment and to the appeal. It was explained that work was underway to understand the capacity of the Parks, in order to ensure that “specialness” was preserved.

Members noted the high reliance on volunteers and ways in which these efforts could be acknowledged were discussed. It was explained that volunteers generally liked to be involved, but that they also received training and experience that was valuable to them.

RESOLVED:

The Culture and Communities Select Committee resolved to note the presentation and the progress of the Country Park transformation programme.

60. **INFORMATION ITEM:**
HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT SPORTS
PARTNERSHIP

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 8 in the Minute Book, regarding the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sports Partnership (SHIOW)

The background to the sports partnership was outlined to the Committee, along with the current staffing structure and funding arrangements. SHIOW is hosted by the County Council and has been since it was set up in 2000. A number of the projects underway were detailed and it was explained how these would enable the partnership to meet its strategic aims. In particular the challenge of increasing participation in sport in order to raise the overall level of health in Hampshire was set out. The presentation included a short video from the Hampshire Games, to demonstrate the level of engagement amongst young people. A review of the governance arrangements for SHIOW had recently started and a report would come to the next meeting of the Select Committee about this.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and the work of the partnership. The challenge of engaging inactive, middle aged people in sport and physical activity was discussed and it was

acknowledged that this was difficult, however a number of programmes were working to tackle the problem.

The use of social media to publicise the work of the partnership was discussed and it was agreed that further options would be considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee note the presentation and the positive progress of the sports partnership.

61. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Corporate Services, item 9 in the Minute Book, which set out the Committee's work programme.

A motion was proposed by Councillor Chegwyn and seconded by Councillor Gurden that:

"A report of the Executive Member for Culture and Communities in relation to forthcoming decisions be included for consideration on every future agenda of the Select Committee"

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor Mather and seconded by Councillor McNair-Scott that:

"A report of the Executive Member for Culture and Communities is not formally required on agendas of the Select Committee, owing to the Executive Member's willingness to present reports to the Committee when it is appropriate to do so"

A vote was held on the proposed amendment with the result: 4 votes in favour and 5 votes against.

A vote was held on the proposed motion with the result: 5 votes in favour and 4 votes against.

It was therefore

RESOLVED:

That a report of the Executive Member for Culture and Communities in relation to forthcoming decisions be included for consideration on every future agenda of the Select Committee.

Add to work
Programme

Chairman