

EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH WEST AREA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Eggars School, Alton

Tuesday 22nd February 2005

-: Present :-

Cllr M C Johnson MBE (Chairman)
Cllr R A Booker (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ms P J Bradford, Cllr P D Burrige, Cllr A B Chick, Cllr R W Chilton, Cllr B O Dickinson, Cllr A R Ludlow, Cllr D P O'Donnell.

-: Also in attendance :-

Cllr S C James

-: Officers :-

Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Community, Community Project Worker (Sports and Play), Principal Conservation Officer, Assistant Committee and Members' Services Co-ordinators.

-: Representatives from external organisations :-

Irene Konschill and Stephen Lampard - Format Milton Architect Ltd, Lee Drennan and Clare Sutton - Kenn Scaddan Associates Ltd, Mrs Evelyn Askew – Relate Basingstoke and District.

77. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C J Graham, J M J Janes, W V Womack and Mrs P A Seward

78. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on the 25th January 2005, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

79. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** The Chairman:

(i) Informed members of the public that a loop system was in use to ensure that all members of the public could hear the proceedings;

(ii) Informed members of the public that feedback forms were available for members of the public to give their views on the meeting;

(iii) asked members of the public to complete the attendance sheet which was at the back of the hall; and

(iv) announced the location of the fire exits;

80. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr R W Chilton – personal interest – minute 82. Nature of interest: Cllr Chilton was an East Hampshire District Council representative on the trustee board of Alton Citizens Advice Bureau and a director of Alton Initiatives Management. Cllr Chilton remained in the room during the discussion of this item.

81 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.** There were no public questions.

82 **PRESENTATION – PROPOSED ALTON COMMUNITY BUILDING.** The Area Community Committee received a presentation from representatives of Kenn Scaddan Ltd and Format Milton Architects Ltd. They introduced and explained the principles behind their designs of the proposed Alton Community Building.

The Head of Community introduced the item and indicated that in 2003 a number of Alton people had contributed to a review of community facilities in the town. The review highlighted the need for a modern, all purpose Community Centre. At the same time Alton Citizens' Advice Bureau identified a need for modern and accessible accommodation.

As result, a number of organisations with an interest in Alton had been discussing possible ways

forward. The preferred option of those organisations was the creation of a new building on the Bank Car Park.

Mr. Lee Drennan of Ken Scaddan Associates gave a presentation which included plans of the site, layout plans of each floor, elevations of the building and artistic impressions of the building within the setting of Alton.

Mr. Drennan explained that they aimed to produce a design with no loss of trees and minimum loss of car parking. They also aimed to:

- respect the scale and mass;
- produce a plan that responded to the design brief;
- produce a building that was flexible and allowed for change of use in the future;
- address the river as a design opportunity;
- produce a cost effective, energy efficient building; and
- produce a landmark building.

Ms. Irene Konschill from Format Milton Architect Ltd introduced their scheme and gave a presentation. Ms. Konschill explained that they had studied the historical context of the site and showed photographs of the current car parking facilities and the river.

Ms. Konschill informed the Committee that Format Milton aimed to re-establish green land in Alton, respect the trees and maintain the car park. The shape of the building was designed to harmonise with the trees, maximise natural daylight and become an icon of Alton.

Artists impressions of the new building were presented, and it was explained that the materials used would blend in with the mature trees that surrounded it. The interior diagram indicated that there would be:

- ventilation;
- daytime lighting;
- on-site energy collection;
- Grey water recycling;
- A cooling system;
- Material sourcing; and
- Heating and electrical load targets.

Mr. Stephen Lampard from Format Milton remarked that their design was an expression of optimism and was a building that would function for the community.

Cllr Chick commented that both the architects had put in effort and had met the criteria set. He referred to the library nearby which had used traditional materials, and considered the Format Milton design to be forward thinking and fitting within the context of the new library.

The Chairman invited comments from the public and the Committee heard the following points:

Mr. Grant-Ferguson, Amery Hill Residents Association:

- the association had witnessed the advantages and disadvantages of development in Alton;
- The association thought that the possibility of re-using the existing building should be considered;
- there was strong support for the Format Milton design;
- reservations about the Format Milton design included: the location of facilities for the elderly and young should not be on the 1st and 2nd floors, the stilts that the building would sit on were not practical and there should be a traffic study.

Mr. Hepper, Alton Society:

- there had been a large response to the proposed building and the comments would be sent to EHDC;
- the Format Milton design was considered to be an exciting option for Alton;
- the space under the building could be a problem if the space was not managed properly;
- there was concern about the durability of materials such as the cladding; and
- there were concerns about access to the building, and how the trees would survive the building works.

Mr. Lampard, Format Milton, responded to Mr. Heppers concerns regarding the trees. He informed the audience that arboriculturalists had been consulted and they had found out exactly how close buildings could be placed to the trees.

Mr. Harris, Hampshire County Youth Service:

- The Youth Service currently a base in the existing community centre;
- The designs did not reflect a self-contained room for the Youth Service with its own access and toilets; and

- The Youth Service used their base regularly and would not want other people to use their room.

Mr. Ferrier, Head of Community, commented that the County Council had been involved throughout the process and that young people's usage of the building would be important.

Tom Arnot, Alton U3A:

- new build was favoured; and
- the Format Milton design was preferred.

Mr. Gay, speaking as a resident:

- EHDC should support internal markets;
- the Format Milton design would be a great asset to Alton;
- the building would be 'of its time', not a pastiche of what has gone before;
- a new community building was the largest investment in Alton for over 20 years; and
- the building would be a bold statement and a landmark building for Alton.

Cllr. Willouby, Alton Town Council:

- the Town Council was delighted to be involved in the process;
- Alton people were enthusiastic and had taken part in the consultation; and
- the Town Council were in support of a new building and the Format Milton design.

Mr. May, Four Marks resident:

- the Format Milton design was preferable;
- the building should be "long-life, loose-fit", and so could be easily adapted in the future;
- the services should be hidden in raised floors or false ceilings;
- the glass could be adapted into a heat transfer system;
- regularly used facilities should be on the ground floor;
- hung tiling would be preferable to timber cladding; and
- the town should be reflected in the building.

Mr. Lewis, Alton Chamber of Commerce:

- the Format Milton design was preferred;
- there was concern about impact on the surrounding buildings;

- new buildings in the future should not clash with the new community building; and
- the new community building must be easy to find for tourists visiting Alton.

Other comments from members of the public included:

- it was positive that young people in Alton had an opportunity to give their opinion on the new building;
- groups that would use the Community Building would be pleased to use new facilities;
- it should be easy to extend the building if necessary; and
- the East Hampshire Disability Forum had not been consulted.

The representatives of Format Milton and Kenn Scaddan Ltd explained that flexibility had been part of the design brief. Both designs could be extended if needed.

Mr. Ferrier informed the Committee that the East Hampshire Disability Forum would be asked to undertake a disability audit of the scheme. Format Milton and Kenn Scaddan Ltd explained that there were full provisions within their scheme for disabled people, such as over-sized lifts and straight corridors.

Cllr Burridge commented that the community building was a major investment in Alton, and was pleased to hear how enthusiastic the people of Alton were. Cllr Burridge added that it seemed that members of the public had given a clear direction to the Committee regarding which design they preferred.

The Chairman thanked both Format Milton Architects Ltd and Kenn Scaddan Ltd for their presentations, and thanked the public. The public were reminded that the new community building exhibition would continue until the end of the week.

RESOLVED that

the presentation be noted.

83. PRESENTATION – RELATE BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT. The Area Community Committee received a presentation from Mrs. Evelyn Askew about the work of Relate Basingstoke and District.

Mrs. Askew explained that Relate was the largest counselling organisation in the country and worked

to a national code and ethics. Counsellors were trained on a graduate program.

Relate Basingstoke and District covered a large area and Mrs. Askew explained that two counsellors worked in East Hampshire. Relate provided a wide range of services which included couple counselling, Relate for parents, Relateen, and Family counselling.

Mrs. Askew described the process of making an appointment with Relate. She explained that people often rang the Head Office to make an initial appointment, and informed the Committee that there was voicemail out of hours. There was also a facility on Relates website to register online. After an initial assessment, people waited for an appointment slot to become available.

There were many reasons why people went to Relate for counselling which included separation, divorce, alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Mrs. Askew informed the Committee that the benefits of counselling included an improvement in self esteem, communication skills and studies had shown that there were health benefits.

Mrs. Askew explained that local Relate centres had to meet their own running costs. Funding enabled Relate to provide a service to everyone – regardless of their ability to pay. Relate were heavily subsidising work for Hampshire residents, and funding from East Hampshire District Council would ensure that local services would continue to be offered, and those on low incomes or benefits would be able to have counselling for free, or at a reduced rate.

Members commented on the good work of Relate. Cllr O'Donnell asked why there had been such an increase in the request for funding over two years.

Mrs. Askew explained that previous funding from other organisations such as Children in Need and the Lottery Fund were 'one-off' awards. Relate were currently subsidising East Hampshire people from their reserves and it was expected that there would be an increase in people using Relates services.

RESOLVED that

the presentation be noted.

84. NORTH WEST AREA PROJECT FUND – REVENUE APPLICATIONS. Following the presentation from Mrs. Askew; the Area

Community Committee considered the report of the Community Project Worker (Sports and Play), CT.30/05, previously circulated.

The report set out for decision grant applications for funding, to the Committee's Projects Fund from Relate Basingstoke and District.

Members voted on the recommendation for APPROVAL to grant funding to Relate. 7 Members voted FOR approval, 2 Members voted AGAINST approval.

Therefore it was

RESOLVED that

The following grant application be approved:

(i) Relate Basingstoke and District - £2,000

85. HISTORIC BUILDINGS GRANT

2004/2005. The Area Community Committee considered the report of the Principal Conservation Officer, PP.7/05, previously circulated. The report set out for decision an application for funding to assist the Parochial Church Council with the cost of repairs to the early 17th century Waloppe monument inside St. James's Church, Upper Wield.

Mr. Dick, the Principal Conservation Officer, displayed photographs of the church and monument and explained that St. James's was the oldest church in East Hampshire, dated to 1150. The Waloppe monument was a half tester tomb dated to 1617 which sat on the earth within the church. Mr. Dick explained that moisture was seeping into the monument, which was corroding the ferrous fixings and as a result had cracked the alabaster panels.

The monument would have to be dismantled, and a damp proof course would be installed under the tomb. Mr. Dick explained that the monument would then be reassembled, and the ferrous fixings would be replaced with stainless steel fixings.

Cllr Burrige praised the Mr. Dick for his description of the church and monument and informed the Committee that Historic Building Grants represented extremely good value for the Committee.

RESOLVED that

The following Historic Buildings Grant application be approved:

- (i) St. James's Parochial Church Council - £2,000

86. HISTORIC BUILDINGS GRANT

2004/2005. The Area Community Committee considered the report of the Principal Conservation Officer, PP.8/05, previously circulated. The report set out for decision an application for funding to assist with the costs of repairs to the Blackmoor war memorial.

Mr. Dick, the Principal Conservation Officer displayed photographs of the World War I memorial dated to 1920. He explained that the Grade II listed Blackmoor memorial was of international importance, and was designed by the famous architect Sir Herbert Baker.

Mr. Dick drew Members attention to the rare roof, and explained that the oak framing was in need of repair and the paving around the memorial had deteriorated. The bronze plaques would be cleaned and restored, and water would reinstated to the drinking fountain.

RESOLVED that

The following Historic Buildings Grant application be approved:

- (i) Blackmoor War Memorial - £1,000

87. HERITAGE GRANT. The Area Community Committee considered the report of the Principal Landscape Officer, PP.13/05, previously circulated. The report set out for decision an application for funding to assist with the costs of repairs to the stone boundary walls around the churchyard of St. Matthews Church.

Mr. Dick, the Principal Conservation Officer, introduced this item on behalf of the Principal Landscape Officer and explained that the church was Grade II*, and that the walls were separately listed as Grade II. Mr. Dick explained that the wall and Lychgate were designed by Alfred Waterhouse.

He displayed photographs of the walls, and informed the Committee that the wall was made of cut blocks of malmstone and Bath stone. The stones were de-laminating and were shedding layers.

A member of the public asked how the repairs to the wall would be carried out. Mr. Dick answered that the wall would be repaired block by block; and where possible, the existing blocks would be turned around. Mr. Dick explained that some stones would need to be replaced.

RESOLVED that

The following Historic Buildings Grant application be approved:

- (i) St. Matthews Church Parochial Church Council - £1,000

.....
Chairman

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

During the course of the meeting 38 members of the public and 2 members of the press were present.
