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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Conservation Working Party

Date: Tuesday, 26th September, 2017

Place: Committee Room 5 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor M Flewitt (Chair)
Councillors B Arscott, B Ayling, R Hadley, J Ware-Lane,
F Waterworth and Atkinson

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: Councillors C Mulroney
K Waters, Ms A Greenwood and R Harris

Start/End Time: 6.00 - 7.30 pm

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davies, Habermel and Nevin (no substitutes). Apologies were also received from Ms S Hawkins (substitute: Mr P Hawkins), Ms R Arscott, Mrs J Lambert, Mr M Dedman and Mr G Littler.

2 Declarations of Interest

The following Member declared interests:-

- (a) Councillor Arscott – All agenda items – non-pecuniary interest – member of archaeological society;
- (b) Councillor Mulroney – All agenda items – non-pecuniary interest – member of Southend and Leigh Society Groups and Trustee;
- (c) Councillor Ware-Lane – All agenda items – non-pecuniary interest – member of Southend and Leigh Society Groups.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19th June 2017

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19th June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 Article 4 Directions

The Working Party was advised that the Council would be undertaking a review of Article 4 Directions as part of the Local Development Plan process. Officers emphasised that the review would be a significant piece of work and will include a geographical review.

In response to questions and concerns expressed regarding Article 4 Directions the Chairman gave an undertaking to discuss the matter with officers and provide a more detailed report to the next meeting of the Working Party.

Resolved:

That a detailed report covering Article 4 Directions be provided to the next meeting of the Working Party.

5 Hamlet Court Road Potential Designation as Conservation Area

The Working Party received a PowerPoint presentation from Mr Atkinson on a proposal to consider the designation of the Hamlet Court Road area (and associated streets) as a Conservation Area. The presentation covered various aspects of the historical and architectural significant of the area.

The Working Party discussed the merits of the Hamlet Court Road area for designation and there was a general consensus to support the proposal. The Working Party noted that the newly established Hamlet Court Road Conservation Area Forum offered to prepare the appraisal which would need to be fully assessed / analysed by officers.

Resolved:

That the apparent architectural and historical significance of the Hamlet Court Road area be recognised and that Cabinet be recommended to consider further detailed works towards the possible Conservation Area designation of Hamlet Court Road.

6 Local List Inspector Proposals

The Working Party was advised that officers were not in a position to provide a report in response to the Society Groups' proposals presented at the last meeting in respect to the proposals concerning a Local List Inspector post/role.

The Society Group representatives provided clarification that their proposals were not necessarily aimed at the Council putting in place a 'local list' inspector (in-house or otherwise) as they were aware of the resource implications and budgetary constraints on the Council.

The Society Groups' representatives at the meeting offered their support and expertise and to work with the Council to carry out inspections/reviews of locally listed buildings. The Chairman and officers welcomed the support from the Society Groups.

Resolved:

That the officers provide a report back to the next meeting in response to the proposal for a 'Local List Inspector', taking into consideration the offer of support from the Society Group representatives to carry out inspections/reviews of locally listed buildings.

7 Crowstone Conservation Area - 31 and 32 Western Esplanade

This item was requested by the CAWS Group to request an update on the current position regarding 31 and 32 Western Esplanade which were buildings within the Crowstone Conservation Area.

The officers reported that a planning application for these buildings was made and was refused by the Council's Development Control Committee. The refusal of planning permission was upheld by a Planning Inspector on appeal. The Working Party noted that the buildings had been left to fall into a state of significant disrepair and the officers were investigating the potential use of a Section 215 Notice.

Resolved:

That the update on 31 and 32 Western Esplanade, be noted.

8 Prittlewell Camp

The Working Party noted an item which had not been allocated to the agenda and had been tabled at the meeting concerning Prittlewell Camp. Officers would investigate and liaise with the Council's parks and property services teams.

Resolved:

That this item be noted.

Chairman: _____

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