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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Environment & Planning Working Party

Date: Wednesday, 20th January, 2021

Place: Virtual Meeting - MS Teams

Present: Councillor C Mulroney (Chair)
Councillors C Nevin (Vice-Chair), K Mitchell, S Wakefield and P Wexham

In Attendance: Councillors A Chalk and N Ward
S Moore, R Harris, S Dolling, P Jenkinson, T MacGregor and C Robinson

Start/End Time: 6.00 - 7.10 pm

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bright, D Garston and McGlone (no substitutes).

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

3 Notice of Motion - Ban BBQs on Beaches and Public Spaces

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Cabinet held on 3rd November 2020 (submitted to Council on 10th September 2020), concerning the banning of barbeques on the Borough's beaches and public spaces.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. Councillors also highlighted a number of residents' concerns and issues regarding the use of barbeques, namely East Beach.

The Working Party also discussed the draft Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report and commented that it needed to be strengthened and more robust.

Resolved:

1. That the Notice of Motion Note relating to the use of barbeques on beaches, parks and open spaces, be noted.
2. That Cabinet be recommended that officers review the potential use of existing byelaws to address barbeques in inappropriate locations.
3. That Cabinet be recommended that officers develop a robust policy for the management of barbeques to support use at suitable locations.

4. That Cabinet be recommended that consultation be undertaken via YourVoice Southend on the use of barbeques on the beaches and public spaces in the Borough.

4 Notice of Motion - Make our Gardens and Open Spaces to RHS Britain in Bloom Standard

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Cabinet held on 3rd November 2020 (submitted to Council on 10th September 2020), to make the Borough's Gardens and Open Spaces to RHS Britain in Bloom Standard.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

1. That the Notice of Motion to make our Gardens and Open Spaces to RHS Britain in Bloom Standard, be noted.

2. That Cabinet be recommended that the parks that meet the criteria continue to be entered for the Green Flag awards.

3. That Cabinet be recommended to note that the Parks Team continue to work with friends groups and volunteers.

4. That Cabinet be recommended that, if a community group wishes to set up as an In Bloom Committee to enter the Borough in Britain in Bloom, the relevant sections in the Council will liaise with the group.

5. That Cabinet be recommended to note that the planting and management of the Borough's parks and green spaces will continue to adapt to the changing climate and environment, to support biodiversity, and help meet the varied needs of citizens.

6. That Cabinet be recommended that consultation be undertaken on Your Voice Southend to provide up-to-date information about how people use the town's parks and green spaces and how they would like to use them in the future.

5 Notice of Motion - Water Fountains and Water Bottle Refill Points

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Cabinet held on 3rd November 2020 (submitted to Council on 10th September 2020), concerning the provision of water fountains and water bottle refill points in public areas.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. The Working Party noted that schemes were already in place providing a number of water fountains and refill points and that the provision of additional

water fountains and / or refill points will potentially have significant resource implications for the Council (i.e. maintenance costs).

Resolved:

1. That the Notice of Motion on water fountains and water refill points, be noted.
2. That Cabinet be recommended not to install any new public water fountains at this stage.
3. That Cabinet be recommended that the water bottle refill schemes that are available continue to be promoted, with a view to increasing access points for these schemes.

Chair: _____

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