

18 OCTOBER 2018

COMMUNITY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

18 October 2018

- * Councillor Adrian Chandler (Chairman)
- * Councillor Pauline Searle (Vice-Chairman)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| * Councillor Angela Gunning | Councillor Sheila Kirkland |
| Councillor Murray Grubb Jnr | * Councillor Bob McShee |
| * Councillor Christian Holliday | * Councillor Tony Phillips |
| * Councillor Nigel Kearse | * Councillor Matthew Sarti |

*Present

Councillor Matt Furniss was also in attendance.

C15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sheila Kirkland. Councillor Jennifer Jordan attend as a substitute for Councillor Sheila Kirkland.

C16 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

C17 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Advisory Board held on 6 September 2018 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

C18 PUBLIC CONVENIENCE REVIEW

The Lead Councillor and the Waste, Parking and Fleet Services Manager introduced a report which advised the EAB of the current public convenience provision, related current and planned works and likely future demands and opportunities. The report addressed strategic priorities, provision in different locations, service costs, toilet usage, future challenges and options, community toilet schemes, charging, closure, expansion, consultation and a summary of options. The results of a Guildford Public Toilet User Survey were appended to the report. The EAB was asked to consider the current service, review the possible options for future service provision and decide if it wished officers to develop any of these options further.

The EAB was advised that the Council operated 17 public conveniences throughout the Borough and the facilities were in generally good condition, well maintained and regularly refurbished with a clear and funded refurbishment programme in place. In addition, there were two public toilets provided by parish councils in Ash and Shere and these parishes each received a grant from the Council towards the running costs of the facilities. Whilst there was no statutory duty to provide these toilet facilities, they were well used and popular with residents and visitors alike. The facilities supported many positive aspects such as the attractions, services and facilities offered by the Council. However, finances were a major consideration.

The suggested options consisted of no change, closing the Home Farm toilets, developing a wider closure programme with or without a community toilet scheme, developing a community toilet scheme, expansion of facilities to include a Changing Places toilet facility,

18 OCTOBER 2018

conversion of an existing facility to a Changing Places toilet, supporting the provision of a Changing Places toilet in a town centre private sector area (such as a shopping centre or transport hub) or introducing charges for some or all of the facilities. The provision of public toilets in new town centre redevelopments could be encouraged. It was noted that charging for use of facilities was unpopular with the public.

Community toilet schemes consisted of councils entering into agreements with businesses such as pubs, restaurants and cafés to allow non-customer access to their facilities which avoided the need for a council to provide a duplicate provision. In some cases this was voluntary but in most cases the council in question made a contribution to the facility owners. This arrangement provided benefits to businesses such as confirmed income, boosted turnover due to the increase in footfall and good publicity. Changing Places toilets, which offered additional features and more space, were needed by the 250,000 plus people nationally with severe or complex disabilities who were unable to use standard accessible toilets. A leaflet describing the Changing Places facility was circulated at the meeting.

The following points and views arose from questions and discussion:

- As the Home Farm facility at Stoke Park was under utilised, the EAB supported its closure subject to the provision of publicity to inform the public of the closure and the location of the nearest alternative facilities. The EAB was against any further closures and felt that it was essential to retain facilities in parks to encourage their use.
- The community toilet scheme could bring disruption to pubs and restaurants and the facilities may not meet Council standards. It was felt that they should only be considered in the event of toilet closures.
- Charging for the use of facilities was not supported.
- The provision of a Changing Places facility was welcomed. Although Tunsgate was suggested as the site for such a facility owing to its pedestrianisation, accessibility and central location, accommodating it there would take up all of the existing facility which would reduce it to a single toilet facility. It was therefore suggested that consideration be given to an alternative location. Changing Places were supportive of local authorities and could assist by advising on provision of their facilities and appropriate locations. As a special key was required to access a Changing Places toilet, consideration would need to be given to the management of such a facility if it was unstaffed.
- Conditions could be added to planning consents to require the provision of toilet facilities such as a Changing Places facility.
- An estimate of the cost of the provision of a Changing Places facility and the cost of the Healthmatic Guildford Public Toilet User Survey would be circulated to the EAB.
- The nearest facilities to the Castle Grounds and Guildford Museum were those located in Tunsgate and it was felt that these should be clearly signposted.
- The telescopic pop up urinal in North Street was likely to be replaced in approximately five years' time and was in need of maintenance and repair in the meantime to extend its useful life.
- Building regulations and guidance steered the specifications of public toilets such as whether doors opened inwards or outwards.
- The relationship with the two parish councils receiving a grant from the Council towards the running costs of their facilities would be regularised.

In summary, the Chairman confirmed that, although the EAB supported the closure of the Home Farm facility with appropriate publicity, it did not support any wider closure with or without community toilet schemes or the introduction of charges for use of facilities. The

18 OCTOBER 2018

EAB also supported the concept of providing a Changing Places facility having identified a suitable site and seeking opportunities for increasing provision as part of any redevelopment of the town centre. The re-instatement of any missing facility directional signs following the redevelopment of the Tunsgate area was sought. The Lead Councillor and the Waste, Parking and Fleet Services Manager were thanked for the report and work undertaken to date.

C19 PROGRESS WITH ITEMS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE EAB

The EAB's attention was drawn to the General Fund Capital Programme entry where the date had been corrected from 2010-21 to 2020-21. There were no queries or points arising from consideration of progress against items previously considered by the EAB.

C20 EAB WORK PROGRAMME

It was acknowledged that some topics overlapped the remits of both EABs and the Place-making and Innovation EAB had recently considered the Stoke Park Masterplan as it had previously looked at that matter and requested an update. Members were advised that they were welcome to attend meetings of the other EAB if they wished to take part in consideration of an item of interest to them or follow it up at an Executive / Council meeting. There were no comments in respect of the work programme.

The meeting finished at 8.00 pm

Signed

Date

Chairman