

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Date & Time: Monday 29th March 2021 at 7.00pm

Place: Held by video-conferencing via Zoom

Present: **COUNCILLORS (committee members)**

Collett
(absent)Crisp
Cole
Griffin (Vice Chairman)
Hennell
Spencer (Chairman)

Non-committee members

OFFICERS

Deputy Town Clerk

1595 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies received.

1596 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 1st February 2021 were confirmed as a true record.

1597 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

1598 **OPEN FORUM**

There were no questions

1599 **SWAN LAKE PARK**

- 1.The Committee **Noted** the update on the refurbishment to the island ponds.
2. The Committee **RESOLVED** to grant the request to issue day tickets to non-members and add the following clause to the fishing licence. *'The licensee may issue day tickets to non-members at the discretion of the Town Council and any decision made may be subject to an annual review by the council'*
3. The Committee **RESOLVED** to allow the footpath running along the river at the northern edge of Swan Lake Park to be dedicated as a Right of Way. Members would like Hampshire County Council to consider continuing the RoW to the road bridge on Darby green Lane.

EVENTS UPDATE

The Committee NOTED the events update below.

Event rules according to the Government roadmap out of lockdown

- Full details to be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021#roadmap>
- Currently: outdoor markets are permitted to continue with only limited types of businesses, including food retailers, pharmacies, garden centres, take-away food and those selling 'essential' products. The full list can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/closing-certain-businesses-and-venues-in-england>. No other large events permitted.
- No earlier than March 29th: Stay at home order lifted, 'Essential' only markets permitted, no large events permitted.
- No earlier than April 12th: Non-'essential' stalls permitted at market, majority of outdoor settings and attractions can also reopen, including drive-in cinemas and drive-in performances events. The rules on social contact outdoors will apply in these settings.
- No earlier than May 17th: Indoor attractions can open. Some large events permitted to resume – capacity limits apply (whichever is lower):
 - Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%
 - Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%
 - Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%
- No earlier than June 21st: All legal limits on social contact lifted, restrictions on large events including sports events and music festivals lifted.

Litter Picks

- Saturday 29th May (Bank Holiday Saturday) – Litter pick as part of Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean'. This will follow the same plan that we had for last year which had to be cancelled. There will be 2 starting points, one on Yateley Green and one outside the Darby Green Centre. We will promote this widely and contact local groups to get people involved. We will loan litter picking equipment and provide safety information. Groups can then go to litter pick wherever they like from the starting point (we will have a list of 'hotspots' if people aren't sure where to go), and then they can bring their bags back to the starting points. The waste will be collected from the 2 points by Hart as soon as possible after the event. The Lion's and a community litter picking group have already expressed their interest in being involved with this event.
- October (Date TBC, likely Saturday 23rd/30th October as this is half-term and may see more families out) – Another mass litter pick following the same format as above, with any adjustments made from experience with first litter pick.

Specialist Markets

- Arts & Crafts Market – (Date TBC – Sunday 22nd August) To take place at the Darby Green Centre, inside and on the grass outside, leaving the car park clear. The Sunday Market traders will attend as normal, and in addition to their stalls, we will also invite a wide range of local arts and crafts vendors to sell their crafts or services. We will also investigate if any traders would like to offer interactive art or craft stalls or provide tutorials or workshops. The hall can be used

for its facilities, and possibly for sheltering some stalls, or for the provision of refreshments if any business or organisation would like to provide these. Outside, there will be further stalls on the grass in a market style. We will also invite a hot food trader.

- Food Market – (Date TBC). This would follow a similar format to the Arts & Crafts Market, but instead we would invite a range of hot food sellers and also those selling ingredients/preserves/other food and drink related produce.

Saturday Market

- Thanks to the popularity of the Tuesday Market at The Tythings, and after being approached by traders, we will be starting a Saturday Market at the same location with many of the same traders from Saturday 17th April (TBC). This will not replace the Sunday Market at the Darby Green Centre. This will take on the same format as the Tuesday Market, but we are looking into moving it slightly more onto the grass to open up more car parking spaces as we anticipate that it will be popular.

Local Hero Celebration with Lions

- Monday 30th August (TBC) - Cllr Gerry Crisp would like to host a celebration of 'Local Heroes' who have gone above and beyond to support others in the community during COVID-19. We have put a call out for nominations for recognition, we have already received a few and will continue to ask for nominations. The Lion's Club have suggested that this celebration takes place within their Summer Fayre, as this will allow the public to be present to recognise the 'Local Heroes'. The Lion's Club has said that their event has not yet been confirmed, and so we will also look into other options in case the Fayre does not go ahead. If it does, the celebration would likely take place within a marquee on the Green during the Fayre. Representatives from local organisations who have made a difference would be invited, and Cllr Crisp would read out the nominations and present the recipients/representatives of nominated organisations with a certificate. This will provide the community with the opportunity to recognise and thank those who have helped over the last year. There has also been discussion of a raffle taking place to raise money for the Mayor's Charity – this is TBC.

Other events

- Yateley Town Council have been approached by a number of external businesses and organisations wishing to host events on our land over the summer. The events that have been provisionally booked so far (subject to Government guidelines) are as follows:
 - Fun Fair visit – 14th-21st June
 - Gig on The Green – 26th-27th June
 - Silent Cinema – 27th August
 - The Lion's Summer Fayre – 30th August
 - Circus visit – 31st August - 5th September
 - Yateley 10K Races – one in July and one in August

1601

TREE CONDITION SURVEY PROCUREMENT

The Committee reviewed a report setting out the outcome of the procurement of the council's tree condition survey, listing all the tenders and making a recommendation. Members **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of Contractor D as set out in the report.

1602 **TOWN COUNCIL PLAN**

Members reviewed and approved the Town Council Plan. Cllr Cole expressed an interest in being involved with the review of accessible playground equipment.

1603 **CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Griffin updated the Committee on the work of the Working Group.

1. The wildflower verge project being undertaken by the Yateley Society is progressing. The chosen areas are to be prepared soon.
2. The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the following wording for addition to the Terms of Reference.

General Points

1. *All lobbying communications are to be approved in advance by YCAN. It may be appropriate, at times, for larger scale lobbying to be run past the Council.*
2. *Lobbying of an overtly party-political nature or where it could be perceived as being political, should not take place.*
3. *When selecting an organisation to approach, consider whether the Council may already have a relationship with that company or organisation – if there are strong contacts, perhaps the letter needs to come from the Council office. This also applies to inviting other organisations to join YCAN in the lobbying campaign.*
4. *Use the opportunity to share what YCAN is currently doing to reduce climate change and to see if they can get involved or help.*
5. *Agree at YCAN who will be doing which tasks – will Officer time be needed?*
6. *Produce a written report to go to Council to update them on what lobbying has taken place and the impact/ response.*

Tone of Communications

1. *When approaching external organisations, the communication should be focused on working in partnership to achieve a common goal, in a supportive and encouraging tone.*
2. *The tone should be positive and engaging, to motivate action by the recipient.*

Examples of Appropriate Lobbying

1. *Letter writing and emails.*
2. *Social media posts.*

3. **Use of Peat Policy-** Members **RESOLVED** to add the following policy to the list of Environment Committee Policies, subject to review of the wording by YCAN. ‘*Yateley Town Council will not use peat in any of their operations, will not allow their contractors to use any peat in products they may supply to the council and will discourage the use of peat in all other activities which the council may be part of including the allotments*’.

1604 **INFORMATION ITEMS AND PREVIOUS ITEM UPDATE**

Members **NOTED** the previous items update and information items.

The meeting concluded at 7:45 pm

Chair.....