



Operations & Amenities Committee

Present: Cllrs Goodman (Chairperson), Chapman, Collins, Dunford, Hitchin, and Maslen

In attendance: Town Clerk, Operations Manager, Project Deliver Manager

Absent: Cllrs Bolanz, Cooper-Marsh, Johnson

Minutes of the meeting of the **Operations & Amenities committee** held on **Tuesday 12th November 2024** at **7.15pm** in the Eaton's Centre, The Maltings, St Neots, PE19 8ES.

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

ACTIONS

062 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllr Bolanz, Cooper-Marsh and Johnson.

Admin

063 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

064 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Operations and Amenities Committee held on 15th October 2024 as a true and accurate record.

065 Action list

Members received and noted the committee action list. A query was raised as to whether Queens Green Canopy signage could be arranged to be installed alongside trees and wildflowers HDC would be planting in mid-November. The planting was initially intended to be part of the scheme. The Clerk advised the committee they would investigate.

066 Local Highways Improvement Bids (LHI)

- i) Members considered a report on feedback from a Cambridgeshire County Council consultation on a LHI bid for a proposed one-way system at Luke Street, Eynesbury and surrounding areas. Members also considered the 27 comments individual comments received in the application.

Members noting the differing opinions expressed in the comments received and asked for a site meeting with the Highways Officer to better understand how the application might be processed.

RESOLVED to defer comment and to arrange a site meeting for Councillors with the Highways officer.



- ii) Members received and noted communication from Cambridgeshire County Council that a LHI bid submitted in January 2024 for the Eatons Ward focusing on speed control measures on Duloe Road from a 60mph zone had been successful. This would now progress to feasibility and design by the Highways Authority.

The Town Clerk informed Members that he had also received confirmation an application for dropped kerbs in the Town Centre as part of improving accessibility had also been successful and would progress to the next stage.

- iii) Members noted that the Working Group for 2025 LHI submissions had not yet met, and this would be progressed ahead of December.

067 Steve Van de Kerkhove Community Centre

Members received and noted a report from the Project Delivery Manager on works to repair the access track and car park at the Steve Van de Kerkhove Community building. The work has been undertaken as repair and maintenance from a delegated revenue budget and was required due to the current use of the two buildings which comprise the Steve Van de Kerkhove Community Centre.

068 Church Wall, St Mary's St Neots

The Council's Project Delivery Manager introduced a report on repair of the Church wall at St Mary's, St Neots. The report shared the information provided by a structural engineer engaged to inspect the wall. Members noted that the Project Delivery Manager would now be working with contractors to bring forward quotes and recommendations to provide the committee with options on how the Council could proceed with repair works.

069 Jubilee Garden

Members considered a report with quotes or indicative costs for protective measures the committee wished to consider as part of preventing future damage to the Jubilee Mosaic. The quotes and costs received were for three specific options;

- 1) Removing all loose stone and replacing with resin.
- 2) Removing fixed stones around the mosaic which trap water and replacing with resin.
- 3) Installing perimeter drainage around the mosaic.

Members noted the quotes received for resin and that one company, which the council had not used before was significantly cheaper. While concerns were expressed at the lack of detailed information provided in the quote, Members felt that more investigation was needed on examples of other works delivered and if quality could be assured.



Members noted the high costs of installing bespoke drainage which ruled a circular drain out. The Operations Manager was seeking quotes for 'off the shelf' rectangular drainage which may provide more cost effective and feasible by using slit drains with a soak away at the lowest point.

Members discussed the overall potential costs of putting in place measures to protect the mosaic and questioned the cost benefit of doing so and whether removing the mosaic should be considered.

RESOLVED to defer making a recommendation on progressing with the installation or resin and drainage for the Jubilee Mosaic until more information on Company B's quote was provided, along with further quotes for slit drainage and alternative options of relocating/removing the mosaic.

070 Budget Setting 2025/26

Members received and considered proposed 2025/26 budgets for recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee.

The Clerk advised the committee that a rental income figure for the Steve Van de Kerkhove Community Centre would be added to the budget.

There were no further proposed amendments.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND budgets as proposed for cost centres 201, 210, 220, 230 and 301 to Finance and Governance for consideration as part of 2026-26 budget setting.

071 CCTV Reports

Members received and considered CCTV reports from Shared Services which provided information on CCTV performance and statistics on incidents.

Members commented that the map of St Neots suggested there were 60 cameras in the town, however there were not 60 locations identified on the map. A Member commented that this may be because some locations, such as the leisure centre may have several cameras in one location.

A Member commented that the reports provided were not as detailed as reports previously received. It was also commented that an officer from the CCTV services used to attend meetings to provide comment.

The Clerk reminded Members that site visits to the CCTV control room could be arranged.

Members asked that monthly statistic reports issued by HDC Shared Services be included as a standard item on the Operations and Amenities agenda.



072 Adoption of Developer Owned Land

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk on a request that the Council adopt land from a developer at Medland Close, Eynesbury.

Members commented that they would be minded considering the adoption of the land as part of ensuring the community spaces were protected and maintained for residents. However, concerns were raised over the number, positioning and size of trees on the various parcels of land. The Operations Manager commented that the larger trees would need inspection and works carried out on them and that the smaller trees adjacent to properties would need regular pruning. A Member commented that trees adjacent to walls and fences posed a risk of damage and it may be more appropriate for them to be removed and new trees planted elsewhere in place of them.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk respond to the developer asking the Council to adopt open space community land at Medland Grove to confirm the Committee would be open to recommending the Council adopt the land subject to the developer undertaking any required tree works or removals prior to adoption and an increased commuted sum to recognise ongoing costs not only for grass cutting but regular tree management and pruning.

073 Burial Regulations

Members received and considered burial regulations as amended by the committee at its previous meeting.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council adopt the burial regulations as proposed for lawn cemetery

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council adopt the other ones as well.

074 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next Operations and Amenities Committee would be on 3rd December 2024 at 7.15pm.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON