

# **HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 27 January 2020**

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

### **Report of the Local Area Manager**

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#### **Recommendations**

**It is recommended that this Committee approves**

- (1) expenditure of £4,500 from the Committee's reserves for 15 litter bins;**
  - (2) the allocation of the developer's contribution of £6,991.20 for the kitchen project at the Old School House, Hedge End;**
  - (3) expenditure of up to £4,350 from the Committee's revenue budget for 9 flower towers;**
  - (4) the allocation of developers' contributions of £100,000 plus interest for the two play areas at Boorley Park;**
  - (5) the stated fees and charges for Itchen Valley Country Park effective from 1 April 2020; and**
  - (6) the increase of 30p to the parking tariffs for Hedge End Train Station car park and Stroudley Way effective from 1 April 2020 until 1 February 2022**
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#### **Summary**

This report identifies funding for provision to meet local need and to enhance the local area.

Fees and Charges for Council services are reviewed on a regular basis. In accordance with the budget strategy approved by the Cabinet in October 2019, fees and charges levied by the Council are reviewed with the intention of increasing the yield by 3%

#### **Statutory Powers**

##### **Section 151 of the, Local Government Act 1972**

**Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 i.e. the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area**

## Strategic Implications

1. The proposals will help to achieve some of the key objectives in the Corporate Plan. For example, the additional litter bins along with the provision of flower towers will help to create an excellent environment for all and will reinvigorate town and local centres. Assistance with the kitchen project at the Old School House will positively affect the programme of activities enabling healthier lifestyles and well - being and potentially tackling deprivation. The projects are in line with Local First which focuses on local need and local priorities. The proposed fees and charges are in line with the corporate policy.

## Litter Bins

2. The Council's Streetscene Operations Manager has offered to buy 15 dual component litter bins at a reduced cost of £4,500 giving a saving of £525. The price includes installation. The bins would be stored at the Council's Depot and would be readily available providing a more efficient service for residents.
3. It is therefore recommended that expenditure of £4,500 is allocated from the Committee's reserves for 15 litter bins.

## The Old School House (formerly known as HEYCA - Hedge End Youth and Community Association)

4. Hedge End Town Council owns the Old School House and has been carrying out works to the fabric of the building during the past few years. This Committee has allocated several developers' contributions towards these works. The next phase of work will include the kitchen area and the Town Clerk has asked whether there is any further funding available from developers' contributions.
5. There is currently a small sum available from the following developer's contribution and it is recommended that this is granted to the Town Council as a contribution towards these works.

DC F/15/76447 Kingsgate(s/be Knightsgate), Home Farm, St. John's Road, Hedge End. Receipt Date 25/03/2019	£6,991.20
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## Flower Towers

6. This Committee has previously funded nine flower towers which have been located in the shopping centres within Hedge End, West End and Botley.
7. The flower towers have always been received positively and it is recommended that expenditure of up to £4,350 is authorised to continue this provision during the Summer.

## Boorley Park Play Areas

8. The open space for the first play area at Boorley Park has now been laid out. This is the land next to the Sports Pavilion. The Section 106 agreement now requires the developers to forward a payment of £50,000 with indexation to the Borough Council for the provision of this play area.
9. A further play area is planned within the site at Chancellors Park and the same amount, i.e., £50,000 with indexation is required once this open space is laid out. This will happen in a future development phase but the formal allocation of both payments is recommended in order to assist with delivery.

DC O/12/71514 Bloor Homes, Bovis Homes, Linden Homes re Land @ Boorley Green, Winchester Rd, Botley	£100,000 plus indexation
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## Fees and Charges at Itchen Valley Country Park

10. The Council agrees an annual strategy regarding fees and charges. In 2020/21 the required yield is 3%.
11. This Committee has discretion to set the fees and charges at Itchen Valley (and for the car park at Hedge End Train Station and at Stroudley Way).
- 12.. The Country Parks Visitor Services Manager and the Local Operations and Parking Manager have discussed these charges with the Local Area Manager and the following proposals are shown below for councillors' consideration:

ITCHEN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK			
Barbeque Charges	1 Jan 19	1 April 20	Change
	£	£	%
Up to 60 people Monday – Thursday	47.50	48.00	1.1
Up to 60 people Friday – Sunday	63.00	64.00	1.6
Over 60 people Monday – Thursday	76.00	77.00	1.3
Over 60 people Friday – Sunday	89.50	90.00	0.6

<b>School Parties</b>	<b>1 Jan 19</b>	<b>1 April 20</b>	<b>Change</b>
	£	£	%
Classroom hire	57.00	58.00	1.75
Visit / Activity – Led by EBC Staff – per child	5.50	5.60	1.8
<b>General Guided Walks (Minimum Charge)</b>	<b>1 Jan 19</b>	<b>1 April 20</b>	<b>Change</b>
	£	£	%
Adults	3.95	4.00	1.3
Concessions	2.70	3.00	1.1
<b>Kingfisher Room</b>			
Room hire per hour (minimum charge 2 hours)	25.00	26.00	4.0
Room hire for parties (up to 5 hours)	56.00	58.00	3.6
<b>Hire of High Hill Field (Minimum Charge)</b>	<b>1 Jan 19</b>	<b>1 April 20</b>	<b>Change</b>
	£	£	%
<b>Charitable organisations</b>			
- Up to 1000 people	362.00	372.00	2.8
- Over 1000 people	662.00	680.00	2.7
<b>Non – Charitable Organisations</b>			
- Up to 1000 people	662.00	680.00	2.7
- Over 1000 people	1630.00	1630.00	0
<b>Car Parking</b>	<b>1 Jan 19</b>	<b>1 April 20</b>	<b>Change</b>
	£	£	%
Up to One Hour	1.40	1.50	7.14
Up to Two Hours	2.60	2.80	7.7
Up to Three Hours	3.90	4.00	2.6
Four hours +	4.50	4.60	2.2

<b>Other Parking Charges</b>	<b>1 Jan 19</b>	<b>1 April 20</b>	<b>Change</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
Coaches	21.00	22.00	4.8
Orange/Blue Badges	Free	Free	N/A
Motorcycles	Free	Free	N/A
Annual Permits	47.00	49.00	4.3
6 Monthly Permits	26.00	27.00	3.8
Quarterly Permits	16.00	17.00	6.3

13. Councillors will recall that the charges for bridleways were reduced at last year's meeting due to the new non - exclusivity policy.
14. Currently consideration is being given to an Automatic Number Plate Recognition system so the parking charges categories have remained the same for the forthcoming year.

### **Fees and Charges – Hedge End Train Station car park and Stroudley Way**

15. The current charge for Hedge End Train Station car park and Stroudley Way is £3.70, Monday to Friday, 8am – 4pm with no charges over the weekend or on bank holidays.
16. The all - day parking charge at Southampton Airport Parkway train station car park is currently £17.30 and £8.50 off peak
17. It is therefore recommended that the charges are increased to £4.00 from April 1 2020 but that this is frozen until 1 February 2022.

### **Financial Implications**

18. All of the recommendations for funding can be afforded from this Committee's revenue and capital budgets. The fees and charges must be implemented in order to achieve the strategic target of a 3% yield.

### **Risk Assessment**

19. There is a risk that the remaining developers' contributions for the play area at Chancellors Park will not be received. However this is considered to be unlikely and the project could be delayed in this instance.

20. If the Committee does not comply with the corporate fees and charges policy and the income target is not achieved then it will be responsible for the shortfall.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

21. The Equality Act is relevant to some of the decisions in this report because
- We have due regard to Equality issues as free car parking has been retained for those with disabilities. Play areas will continue to be designed to conform to accessibility standards.

### **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

22. There are very few flower towers grown in the UK, so the proposed towers are imported from the Netherlands. They contribute to climate change through their production, transport, eventual disposal and weekly watering throughout the summer.
23. Affordable parking charges enable more people to access sustainable transport and also allow predominantly families to enjoy the facilities at Itchen Valley Park which aims to educate its visitors about the environment and energy consumption.

### **Conclusion**

24. The recommended projects will provide future benefit to the local community. The Committee is requested to approve the funding streams and also to approve the fees and charges at Itchen Valley Country Park, Hedge End Train Station and Stroudley Way.

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LOCAL AREA MANAGER

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Appendices Attached: None

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D**

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information. **None**