

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Monday, 27 September 2021

ANNUAL REVIEW

Report of the Local Area Manager

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee consider and agree the contents of this report.

Summary

This report highlights the main areas of work undertaken by the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Committee in 2020/21.

It also includes a summary of the Chair's annual review for 2020/21. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this review was presented at the Annual Assemblies hosted virtually by Hedge End Town Council and West End Parish Council. The Botley Parish Council Annual Assembly was cancelled.

Statutory Powers

Section 1 of the Localism Act 20211

Strategic Implications

1. The Committee's work contributes to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2025 and the corporate themes, including Local First. The projects and service level agreements outlined in Appendix A highlight the Committee's contribution towards a Healthy Community, a Green Borough and a Prosperous Place. The Committee has continued to allocate grant funding to community and youth groups and support local initiatives. The Committee has approved financial contributions towards projects seeking to meet local need and reflect the Committee's priorities as identified in the Committee's Area Action Plan. The Chair's review in Appendix B also illustrates the Committee's work in line with the Corporate Plan and the Area Action Plan.

Introduction

2. This report provides an outline of the work undertaken by the Hedge End, West End and Botley Local Area Committee for the period 1 April 2020- 31 March 2021. The details can be found in Appendix One.
3. The Chair has written an annual review which was presented virtually at the annual assemblies at Hedge End Town Council and West End Parish Council. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Botley Parish Council assembly was cancelled. This review is contained in Appendix Two and it provides some more detail about the work of the Committee during this year; and how the current and continuing crisis may impact some of the Committee's priorities.

Financial Implications

4. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Risk Assessment

5. There are no identifiable risks.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Equality Act is not relevant to the decision in this report as the decision does not relate to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

6. There are no climate change or environmental implications associated with the report's recommendation. However, Councillors are advised that the Committee's Area Action Plan does include an aim to undertake climate change initiatives in line with the overarching corporate plan.

Conclusion

7. Councillors are invited to consider this report.

KITTY BUDDEN
LOCAL AREA MANAGER

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Appendices Attached: 2

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.

APPENDIX ONE

(HEWEB REVIEW PERIOD 1 APRIL 2020 – 31 MARCH 2021)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	2020-21
Number of Committee meetings convened (1 meeting cancelled)	5
Public participation (speakers in Committee)	8 (live) 14 (written) 1 (video)
Additional Members' meetings	7
AGENDA ANALYSIS	
Planning applications considered	15
Other reports	23
Exempt items	0
REPORTS APPROVED	
Financial Management x 4	
Community and Youth Grants 2020/21	
Naming of Street 1	
Forward Funding Woodhouse Lane Sports Facilities Project	
Various Roads Traffic Regulation Order	
Traffic Regulation Order x 2	
Local Area Action Plan 2021/22	
Appointments to Outside Bodies	
Annual Review 19/20	
Car Parking Charges	
REVENUE GRANTS AWARDED	
Revenue grants for local community grants	17
Revenue value	£6,805
Revenue grants for youth projects	12
Revenue value	£5,052
ANNUAL SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS (SLAs)	
Hedge End Teenage Drop-In Centre	£5,500
HEWEB Youth Services	£13,210
Friday Night Football 2020-21	£2,150
Direct Services roundabout annual rolling maintenance	£19,300
Wildern Community Management Committee	£53,140
Berrywood Meadows Direct Services maintenance	£1,500
Parksport Summer Holidays activities	£2,000
APPROVED NON-ROUTINE PROJECTS £1,000+	
Allocation of developer's contributions for stated projects at Hedge End Medical Centre	£29,000
Allocation of developer's contributions for security measures at Hedge End Train Station	£2,374
Allocation of developer's contributions for play area at Hatch Farm	£70,486.21
Approved expenditure from revenue reserve for tree works at The Copse, adjacent 21 Barbe Baker Avenue	£1,066
Approved expenditure from revenue reserve for speed indicator device	£1,890
Approved expenditure from revenue and reserves budget for outdoor covered seating area at Itchen Valley Country Park	£6,500

Allocation of developer's contributions to Hedge End Town Council for vehicular access works at St. Johns Recreation Ground	£7,039.18
Allocation of developer's contributions for Wildern Academy Trust for upgrade of ancillary rooms at Wildern Leisure Centre	Up to £5,000
Approved expenditure for improved signage for cycling in Wildern Lane	Up to £2,000
Allocation of developer's contribution to commission a study into flooding issues at Telegraph Woods, West End	£1,255
Allocation of developer's contribution for upgrades to West End Parish Centre	£23,809
Allocation of developer's contribution for automation of the village clock and upgrades to the clock tower in Botley	£25,000
Allocation of developer's contribution for upgrades to the Drummond Centre in Hedge End	£22,320
Allocation of developer's contribution for toilet upgrades at either the Old School House or the Town Centre in Hedge End	£13,132
Allocation of developer's contribution for upgrades to the play area at Moorgreen Recreation Ground	£20,673
Allocation of developer's contribution for upgrades to the play area at Botley Recreation Ground	£41,125
Allocation of developer's contribution for upgrades to the outdoor recreation facilities at Turnpike Way Recreation Ground	£33,544
Allocation of developer's contribution for the public art project at Hatch Farm, West End	£47,242
Allocation of developer's contribution for upgrades to pathways at Pudbrook open space in Botley	£10,554
The allocation and receipt of funding from the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (Bird Aware Solent) for upgrade of existing paths at Itchen Valley Country Park, subject to final confirmation	£132,300
The expenditure from the revenue budget for 6 litter bins	£1,920
The expenditure from the reserves for a speed indicator device	£2,390
The expenditure from revenue budget for relocation of the speed indicator device	£1,300
Funding towards Friday Night Football sessions at Botley Recreation Ground	£2,130
Funding towards Park Sport 2021	£2,000
Allocation of developer's contribution towards funding the development and delivery of Business Support Initiative Strategy for the local area	£106,973
Allocation of developer's contribution towards improvements at Berrywood Meadows	£36,121
Allocation of developer's contributions towards the masterplan proposals for Itchen Valley Country Park	£182,320
Allocation of developer's contributions towards the public art project at Boorley Park and Boorley Gardens	£5,888

Allocation of developer's contributions towards the West End Heritage Trail public art project	£6,291
Allocation of developer's contributions for a defibrillator at Boorley Park	£1,800
Allocation of developer's contributions towards electric vehicle charging points for Botley Village Centre	£13,201
Allocation of developer's contributions as grant funding towards a new youth shelter at Little Hatts Recreation Ground	£1,830
The expenditure from the revenue budget for 5 litter bins at Boorley Park	£1,600
Allocation of developer's contributions for car park barriers at Boorley Park	£9,284
The expenditure from the revenue budget as a contribution towards the Young People's Wellbeing Service for 2021/22	£5,500
The expenditure from the revenue budget for 6 flower towers located in Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB)	£5,985
The expenditure from the revenue reserves for 3 wildflower sites within HEWEB	£1,350
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	
Capital expenditure – actual for 2020/21	£383,142
Revenue expenditure – actual for 2020/21	£1,155,885.32
Total Revenue reserves – committed/ uncommitted	£149,275.40

APPENDIX TWO

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REVIEW 2020/2021

This has been my third year as the Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Committee. This year has been very different to the first two and it will come as no surprise that I am starting my report this evening with reference to the Covid crisis.

I wish to pay tribute to the many local people and the NHS who have helped others within the HEWEB area. It has been amazing to see so many people and different organisations pulling together to help those in need.

I would also like to express my sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones during this pandemic.

Despite these challenges, when I look back over the past twelve months, it is heartening to see how much has been achieved and this is due to a lot of hard work and excellent partnerships. So tonight, I would like to focus on the positives!

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Itchen Valley Country Park

I have been a regular visitor to Itchen Valley Country Park in West End when regulations have allowed. In common with other people, I appreciate the tranquillity of the Park and we have received many messages of thanks for keeping this facility open. I would like to add my personal thanks to the Park's staff and my congratulations to them for the award of the Green Flag for the 12th year in a row.

Behind the scenes a draft masterplan for the Country Park has been prepared with an initial emphasis on infrastructure improvements including upgrades to existing footpaths, car park and play provision to name a few. I was also pleased to open Woodlarks play area which is educational and enables families to explore nature in a secure environment.

2. Woodhouse Lane

At the March local area committee, councillors voted unanimously to approve the construction of three grass pitches, an artificial sports pitch and an extension to a sports hall at Woodhouse Lane. These projects will provide Hedge End Rangers Football Club with a place they can call home instead of having to travel to many different facilities for matches and training. Pupils at Deer Park School will also have access to enhanced facilities along with other community clubs. I am thrilled to see these projects being given the green light.

3. Hatch Farm

I enjoyed opening the new play area at Hatch Farm in West End with Councillor Rick Mc Donald, the Chair of the Parish Council. This has proved to be a popular facility with local children.

Consultation on the skate park has commenced and a survey of local residents for the adjacent open space, known as Barnsland, will be devised to inform future provision.

4. Wildern School Swimming Pool Roof and Spectator Seating

A major project has been completed at Wildern Leisure Centre with the installation of a new pool roof and spectator seating. The impact inside and outside is stunning. The swimming environment has been enhanced as it is light and spacious. The changing rooms have been refurbished by the School and the leisure centre is now a very attractive facility.

Visitors to the school's campus are now met with a stunning new building with the old corrugated green roof a distant memory.

The community facilities at Wildern School are first class and the staff have been very innovative in the activities that they have devised both online and in person when permitted. The Council enjoys a great working relationship with the Wildern Academy Trust and this is important as the Trust now oversees three schools within HEWEB.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

1. Clinical Commissioning Group

Moving to other key partnerships, we have enjoyed a closer working relationship with the West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group during the past six months. We await the results of the Estates review and look forward to our meeting on 7 June. I would like to thank members of the Group for attending given the immense pressures that they have had to manage.

2. Police

Regular meetings are being held with Chief Inspector Marcus Cator to discuss local issues. Topics have ranged from speeding to anti-social behaviour. These meetings have enhanced communication and we are now looking to pool our resources more effectively. For example, the Committee has purchased two speed indicator devices and has agreed a schedule of 52 locations which will be shared with the Police so that they can enforce the speed limit after the device is removed.

3. Flood Resilience

An innovative partnership has been established between the Environment Agency, Hampshire County Council, Southern Water and Eastleigh Borough Council to improve flood resilience at selected properties in Hedge End. £100,000 was allocated to this project and measures have now been installed. This work will continue as part of the agreed action plan.

YOUNG PEOPLE

The HEWEB Youth Partnership has only just met recently. A new Committee is required and there will shortly be a review of the Partnership's Development Plan. The HEWEB Committee has continued to support youth initiatives such as Park Sport; Friday Night Football and the Teenage Drop In Centre in Hedge End, in partnership with the Town and Parish Councils. In March the Committee agreed to allocate funding for youth grants and the employment of a consultant to review youth engagement within HEWEB.

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Committee has also recently approved funding for a variety of projects across the local area. For example, upgrades to pathways at Pudbrook open space in Botley; automation of the village clock and upgrade of the clock tower, also in Botley; improvements at the Drummond Centre and Turnpike Way Pavilion in Hedge End and upgrades to the Parish Centre and Moorgreen Recreation Play Area in West End.

Community grants were rebadged as bounce back grants and were distributed to those who could support local need. The closing remark of my speech last year was that I hoped our community grants could be used in this way.

We have provided over 20 new litter bins this year following requests from residents. Many of these will be located in the new estate at Boorley Park along with funding for Neighbourhood Watch signs. We continue to fund replacement street name plates and the nine flower towers in our village centres. We are supporting the installation of electric vehicle charging points in Botley.

I am looking forward to seeing the recently approved wildflower sites at Kings Copse Avenue, Upper Northam Road and on the High Street near Midlands Estate. I also regularly walk past the pond at Cheltenham Gardens in Hedge End and appreciate seeing the ducks and wildlife which can now inhabit this stretch of water thanks to the improved maintenance regimes funded by this Committee.

I was also pleased that the Committee supported the allocation of over £100,000 towards the development and delivery of a Business Support initiatives Strategy for the local area. In particular, I hope this will benefit young people who appear to have been hit the hardest by the current pandemic.

BOORLEY PARK

Covid restrictions have disrupted inspections and transfers of the facilities at Boorley Park. However, a consultation was successfully carried out for the play area next to the sports pavilion as residents and Boorley Park Primary school children voted on the play area designs. The winning contractor has been appointed and is ready to install the equipment once the legal transfer is completed. The transfer of the playing pitches and the Multi Use Games Area to the Borough Council is imminent. However, there are some snagging items which need to be completed in the community buildings before the Borough is prepared to accept their transfer.

PARKING

As councillors, we also respond to parking issues and each year we prioritise sites for potential traffic regulation orders, which are mainly double yellow lines. We have also commissioned traffic studies around local schools such as Berrywood and St. James'.

Work has commenced on proposals to manage the parking issues around the Ageas Bowl. I have asked officers to liaise with the Committee before any consultation is commenced.

PLANNING

I have demonstrated that the Committee deals with more than planning applications. However, it would be remiss of me not to mention that the Committee has approved applications such as at the old Homebase site off Tollbar Way, the Boundary Lakes' Clubhouse at the Ageas Bowl and the 30 dwellings off Botley Road in West End. Equally we have refused significant applications at Sovereign Drive and Precosa Road for net 104 dwellings and the Land to the south of Maddoxford Lane, west of Westfield in Boorley Green for 92 dwellings.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Committee enables local decisions to be made at a local level. However, we could not carry out our work without the help of our partners, staff, local organisations and volunteers. I would also like to thank the Local Area Manager and Assistant Local Area Manager for the help and support they give to the Chair, Committee, Town and Parish Councils, local groups, organisations and residents.

We will continue to be ambitious for our local area as our action plan demonstrates with new projects at Telegraph Woods and land adjacent to Wildern Nature Reserve.

With lockdown restrictions being eased and with the roll out of the vaccination programme, I sincerely hope that 2021 will be a better year for all of us.

**Councillor Cynthia Garton – Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley LAC
March 2021**