

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Monday, 13 June 2022

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 2021/22.

It also includes a summary of the Chair's annual review for 2021/22. This review was presented at the Annual Assemblies hosted 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 2011

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 One 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 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 Two 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 2021- 31 March 2022. The details can be found in Appendix One.

3. The Chair has written an annual review which was presented at the annual assemblies at Hedge End Town Council and West End Parish Council. 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.

Financial Implications

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

Risk Assessment

5. There are no identifiable risks.

Equality and Diversity Implications

6. The Equality Act is not relevant to the decision in this report because:
 - It does not relate to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people.

Therefore, it is considered that for this decision the Equality Duty does not need to be addressed and an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been carried out.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

There are no climate change or environmental implications associated with the report's recommendation.

Conclusion

8. 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 2021 – 31 MARCH 2022)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	2021-22
Number of Committee meetings convened	3
Public participation (speakers in Committee)	3
Additional Members' meetings	6
AGENDA ANALYSIS	
Planning applications considered	2
Other reports	12
Exempt items	0
REPORTS APPROVED	
Financial Management x 1	
Community Grants 2021/22	
Naming of Street x 1	
Various Roads Traffic Regulation Order	
Local Area Action Plan 2022/23	
Appointment to Outside Bodies	
Annual Review 2020/21	
REVENUE GRANTS AWARDED	
Revenue grant value	£7,255
ANNUAL SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS (SLAs)	
Hedge End Teenage Drop-In Centre	£5,730
Friday Night Football 2020-21	£2,130
Direct Services roundabout annual rolling maintenance	£19,300
Wildern Community Management Committee	£53,830
Berrywood Meadows Direct Services maintenance	£1,500
Parksport Summer Holidays activities	£2,000
APPROVED NON-ROUTINE PROJECTS £1,000+	
Expenditure from revenue budget towards Hedge End Unwrapped	£2,850
Expenditure towards replacement bins	£1,480
Approval of additional spend to remove Midlands Estate planter	£1,400
Expenditure towards replacement of barrier at Charterhouse Way	£1,110
Approval of additional spend to complete the Berry Theatre Gates	£8,810
Expenditure from revenue budget for relocation of the speed indicator Device	£3,000
Funding towards Friday Night Football at Botley Recreation Ground	£2,130
Funding towards Park Sport 2022	£2,000
Expenditure from revenue budget as contribution towards the Young People's Wellbeing Service for 2022/23	£5,730
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	
Capital expenditure – actual for 2021/22	TBC
Revenue expenditure – actual for 2021/22	£656,146
Total Revenue reserves – committed/ uncommitted	£188,834

APPENDIX TWO

HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REVIEW 2021/2022

Last year, I started this annual review making reference to the Covid pandemic and paying tribute to the many local people and the NHS who have helped others within the Hedge End, West End and Botley area. Little did we realise that a year later we would still be experiencing the impacts of the pandemic. While the extensive vaccination program has allowed more normal life to resume, I remain impressed by, and grateful to, all the local people and the NHS who continue to support our communities and vulnerable residents.

This has been my fourth year as the Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley Local Area Committee, and while the pandemic has presented further challenges, much has been achieved – it gives me great pleasure to be able to share some of the successes of the past year with you now.

Itchen Valley Country Park:

This wonderful local country park continues to provide a much-valued space for enjoyment, relaxation, and adventure for its visitors. The introduction of the first elements of the Memorial Walk has given an opportunity for reflection which is already valued by many. Following the approval of £3.3 million funding in July, a range of exciting improvements are proposed for the park, including upgraded play equipment, improvements to trails and enhanced parking. A planning application is anticipated later this year to seek approval for improvements to the existing buildings and the erection of a new building at High Hill Field for use by visitors. The Park's staff continue to deliver an interesting and wide range of events and, as Mayor, I am delighted that the Park will be hosting a 'Wellies and Walkies' event for my chosen charity, Mountbatten Hampshire, on Saturday 2nd April.

Woodhouse Lane:

In October, I had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon for the official opening of the brand-new Deer Park Secondary School which opened to pupils in September 2021. The work to further enhance these facilities with the sports hall extension and Artificial Turf Pitch has been progressing well and is expected to be available for community use in September 2022. With the school forming part of the Wildern Academy Trust, we look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the Academy and building on that foundation with the team at Deer Park.

The creation of three community use grass football pitches at Berrywood Fields has also progressed well, as I saw recently when I visited the site. These combined projects will provide Hedge End Rangers with a place that they can call home instead of having to travel to many different facilities for training and matches, as well as benefiting other community clubs.

Highway infrastructure works for the school and the Woodhouse Meadows development site are being delivered as part of the ongoing phase 1 Botley Bypass

works that are under constructed at present and are anticipated to be completed later in 2022.

Shamblehurst Lane Crossing:

While considerably smaller in scale, the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Shamblehurst Lane has been a priority for the HEWEB Committee for some time and I'm pleased to say that this project has now been completed improving safety for local residents.

Hatch Farm:

Continuing the success of the play area at Hatch Farm which is enjoyed by many, a contract has been awarded to Fearless Ramps to design and deliver a wheeled sports area in this development. Working with West End Parish Council, young people and potential users have been consulted and the final design consultation took place on the 9th March. This is an exciting project for families in the area and our keen skaters and scooter users, and I'm looking forward to seeing the final design take shape.

Boorley Park:

I was pleased to be able to open the play area and Multi Use Games Area at Boorley Park in July, and see lots of children, including some from the Boorley Park primary school enjoying the playground.

While the community buildings are not yet open, the snagging issues that prevented the buildings from being transferred have been resolved and the legal transfer of the buildings and sports pitches to Eastleigh Borough Council has now been completed. The Council is working closely with Botley Parish Council to enable their swift transfer to them and to support the preparations for opening the buildings to the public as soon as possible.

Public Art Projects:

A number of public art projects have been delayed due to impacts arising from the pandemic. However, I'm delighted to be able to say that the installation of new gates at the Berry Theatre entrance has recently been completed. Other projects in Hedge End and West End are progressing and it is anticipated will be delivered later in 2022.

Community Project Funding and Grants:

Being Mayor this year, I have had the pleasure of visiting many organisations across the Borough that provide fantastic support for our communities and residents. As a committee, we have continued to support local organisations in the HEWEB area by funding grants with over £10,000 awarded.

In addition, the Committee has approved funding for a wide range of projects across the local area, including the projects mentioned above. We have provided new litter bins following requests from residents and have continued to fund replacement street name plates and six flower towers in our village and town centres.

As Councillors, we are frequently contacted by residents with regards to parking issues. Each year we prioritise sites for potential traffic regulation orders, which typically comprise the introduction of double yellow lines. The final lining works for the TROs approved in 2021 should be completed soon. We also commissioned a traffic study around Wildern School and the report and recommendations have now been received and are being reviewed with interest by the Committee.

Partnership Working:

Many of the successes that have been achieved in Hedge End, West End and Botley have been achieved through close working with key partners in the area, particularly Hedge End Town Council, West End Parish Council and Botley Parish Council. We are grateful to everyone involved with these organisations for their hard work and dedication.

The Committee has continued to engage with the Hampshire, Southampton, and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure local residents are represented when decisions regarding healthcare are considered. The CCG have been tireless in the delivery of the Covid-19 vaccination programme and I thank them for their immense effort under such pressure.

The multi-agency Flood Resilience Group started in Hedge End in 2020 has been expanded to include other areas of the Borough. This partnership is considering a wide range of measures to seek to proactively manage flood risk across the Borough in the short and medium term, and more strategically. The group is meeting again to continue developing these measures.

Regular meetings are being held with Chief Inspector Marcus Cator to discuss local issues, continuing to strengthen the Committee's relationship with the Police. The Hedge End Neighbourhood Policing Team Sergeant, Sgt Stuart Jackson, is leaving the team in April and I thank him for all his work during his time in Hedge End district. I look forward to continuing the positive relationship we've built with the new team sergeant, Sgt Sally Ferris, when she arrives.

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 – you have the gratitude of the Committee. 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 while recognising the challenges faced with rising costs and global instability. During this coming year, the Committee is keen to focus on successfully completing the significant projects mentioned above, and the careful planning of long-term projects such as the Telegraph Woods improvements and the redevelopment of New Place for our communities, to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our residents, businesses, and visitors.

Finally, I cannot finish my review without commenting on the tragedy that we are witnessing in Ukraine. As a Council, as a Committee, and as individuals, we stand with the people of Ukraine and hold them in our thoughts. Many of our local residents and organisations are providing support in whatever way they can, and I draw solace from the acts of kindness that we see. I wish you all peace, health, and happiness for the coming year.

Councillor Cynthia Garton – Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley LAC March 2022