

Town Managers Report

Syston Regeneration Stakeholder Meeting - Wednesday, 18 April

A report to Council has been discussed at this evenings Full Council Meeting, but for the purposes of this report, a brief summary of the event is as follows:

A socio-economic and environmental appraisal undertaken by Charnwood Borough Council, followed by a survey amongst key stakeholders in Syston resulted in a consultation meeting facilitated by Senior Charnwood Borough Council Officers and attended by influential people in Syston.

David Pendle, Group Leader of Planning, Policy and Place Making presented an overview of the detailed appraisal of Syston, followed by Cllr Paul Henry, providing feedback from the survey which identified key themes for further discussion.

Each theme was evaluated in terms of problem areas and ideas of how to overcome the issues and this was fed back to the group.

We now have some first-hand feedback from key Syston Stakeholders which will be used to formulate an action plan to be implemented into a short, medium and long-term business plan.

ACTION:

Cllrs Henry, Vardy, Lucas, Gerrard and Barkley (attendees at the consultation event), will meet with the Town Manager to assess the information obtained from the consultation including the exploration of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Town as well as the pavilion, street benches, and provision for our older residents.

A first draft will be fed back to Council.

Thank you to all Councillors involved and STC Officers who worked very hard to make this event happen.

Chairman's Civic Reception – Friday, 20 April

The event will have taken place by the time of this meeting. It will be attended by the Mayor of Charnwood, Ed Argar, CBC and LCC Leaders and our important volunteers and members of the community.

The raffle has attracted some excellent prizes from local businesses and all proceeds will be donated to the Warning Zone in Leicester. A report on the event will be provided at the May meeting of Full Council. Thank you to all those who have helped to sell raffle tickets and for attending and supporting the event.

Leaning Wall at Memorial Park

The wall has now been replaced with a robust wooden fence. Solicitors, Rich and Carr were instrumental in making this happen.

MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)

A notice printed in the April edition of Syston Town News as part of a public consultation has to date, not yielded any response with the exception of two residents from the locality of DeVile Park attending the April Amenities Committee Meeting to put forward objections should DeVile Park be a consideration for the siting of a MUGA. The Amenities Committee will monitor any further feedback.

CCTV Coverage

Currently waiting for BT confirmation of connections, once confirmed, installation can take place. CBC Officer, John Hadfield is liaising with BT. John has now raised an official complaint with BT regarding the delay in their response to his query. I met with John Hadfield this week and he reported that no further progress had been made.

Panels – updates since Amenities Committee Meeting

New Cemetery

Draft Tender Specification has been considered by the Cemetery Panel and Amenities Committee and returned to CDS for amendments. It is hoped that the revised Tender Specification will be available in time for consideration at Full Council, but to date, it is still awaited.

Cllrs K Pacey, S Gerrard and myself met with the CCTV Operations Manager and a representative from ADT to discuss a way of reducing the costs of CCTV provision at the new cemetery following an idea by Cllr D Pepper. It was confirmed that a saving of circa £30K would be made by this adjustment. A revised quotation is expected in time for the next Cemetery Panel Meeting on 24 April at 2 pm.

Tree Panel

There is a hold up in the additional maintenance of three trees in St Peter and St Paul Church Yard due to the contractor not being satisfied with the previous granted planning permissions as it did not cover the additional works now requested. The contractor is re-submitting the planning permission on behalf of STC and as a result of the amendments, a second submission to the Leicester Diocese has also been made, to ensure that both permissions complement each other.

A request has been submitted to LCC for a street light blinker to cover a street light on the black pad, now exposed due to tree height reduction.

One person continues to complaint about the reduction in a tree near their property not being to their satisfaction.

Pavilion Panel

A meeting is being arranged with the football teams to discuss the feasibility of leasing the Pavilion to the teams.

Christmas Event Panel

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday, 25 April at 2 pm.

World War I End Centenary and Memorial Procession 2018

Syston History Society, RBL and myself are all working together towards this event. The next meeting is on Monday, 23 April. Myself and the RBL are attending a briefing at County Hall on 30 April.

Jackie Cross from LCC has agreed to meet at Syston to look at the road closure issues both for the Memorial Process and the Christmas Event.

East Midlands in Bloom

An advertisement has been placed in the May edition of Syston Town News for the Front Garden Competition. Public Houses will also be contacted to gauge interest in the Pub Garden Competition.

David Smith is already working towards the blooms for the main competition and I am currently collating a number of Spring bloom photographs for the Portfolio.

SOS Charity Fashion Show

Following last year's big success, another SOS Fashion Show at STC is planned for 4 May 2018. Any volunteers to help on the night, either models, clothing assistants or kitchen assistants are needed. Contact the office if you would like to be involved.

Internet and Outlook Downtime

From Wednesday, 21 March STC office lost its internet and Outlook services due to a BT line issue. This was a very difficult and frustrating time for Officers trying to liaise with BT and the internet provider. In the interim, a Dongle was purchased which can be activated again should a similar situation occur in the future. Service was eventually resumed after two and half weeks. I am making a formal complaint to BT and the internet provider.

Climate Change Project

The LCC Strategic Development Officer (Environment & Waste Management) will be visiting the Community Centre next week to carry out a case study on the new LED lights recently installed. This will be used as a showcase to other councils as an example of how to improve sustainability.

Training

CBC Clerks Liaison Meeting – Town Manager – 26 April

RNIB – Focus on Pavements – Town Manager (invited by a Syston resident) – 26 April

LRALC – Transfer of Rights of Burial Course – Deputy Town Manager and Senior Administrator – 26 April

Braunstone TC – Customer Services – Assistant to Town Manager – 6 June

Development Committee Agenda and Reports

These will be circulated early, on Wednesday, 2 May, due to the May Bank Holiday on 7 May.

Diary Dates

- 4 May 2018; Syston Town Council hosts SOS Charity Catwalk and Fashion Show
- 5 May 2018; 10-11am Councillors Surgery at Syston Community Centre
- 19 May 2018; Funtopia Day at Central Park
- 2 June 2018; Food and Drink Festival at Central Park

Polite Request

Just a plea to Councillors to respect that on Thursday mornings Officers are all working toward the Agenda and Council papers for the following Tuesdays meeting. Unless you have an absolutely urgent need to speak to someone, please can you save it until the afternoon. It was particularly frantic this week due to the Regeneration Meeting and Civic Reception both being in the same week, as well the day to day duties. We never wish to offend anyone by not taking a call or a visit, but we have legal deadlines to meet and if not met, a Council meeting would have to be postponed. Thursday morning is the only time where we ask for some extra consideration for Officers. Thank you.

Please remember to join up to our Facebook page for further developments at Syston Town Council:

social@systontc.org.uk

Website: www.systontc.org.uk

Twitter: @Syston_TC

Catherine Voyce
Town Manager