6.0 COMMUNITY MATTERS AND OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

Briefing note

6.1 Report from the Abbey Road Volunteers, following recent developments and successful work days

{Please see separate paper 6.1, supplied by Lead Volunteer Roger Brown}

These below are pictures to illustrate how good the Abbey Road conservation Area now looks:-









6.2 Update from Clerk concerning postponed Bulb planting project with the Steyning primary school

Unfortunately Steyning primary school is having to deal with some staffing issues currently, and this has meant that their commitment to the Chandlers Way project has been somewhat curtailed. They still have the 150 + plants that they potted and attempted to keep healthy over the very hot summer, but are not in a position to accommodate trips to Chandlers Way to complete the Bulb planting project over this Autumn/ Winter and potentially not able to be involved with early spring planting of more hedgerow, so the bulb planting will have to be postponed to the same or similar time next year.

6.3 To receive an update in consideration of a number of current memorial tribute requests to STC and potentially agree upon a solution for tree and bench combination installation

There are currently three interested parties wanting memorial tributes on the MPF. One was a tree tribute enquiry from Steyning for Trees who will supply the mature Oak tree that had at a previous meeting been favourably received and the location agreed – It would just be a question of helping dig the tree into position, purchasing the tree guard with a pledge of £100 forthcoming from the SFT group, and they will supply and install the plaque.

There is an idea floated for two, potentially four curved benches then being installed in an S shape { For Steyning } - see below both set up and type of bench being suggested – with the two interested parties paying for the first two benches, with two more required perhaps 4 more (one other potential interested party already).

All installation costs being covered by those asking for the tributes to be put in place. These would be installed adjacent the Play Area where there is currently a lack of seating for parents and guardians, plus would be located away from any sports pitch resource.



£480 inc. VAT Ea. recycled plastic – robust/ long lived

6.4 To agree a way forward for South Ash Play Park community engagement and equipment renewal



New look draft poster …?

South Ash Play

We have yet to decide if we want to go all out community engagement (without suggesting too much in terms of raising expectations) or whether we opt for a swifter solution and simply to purchase swing of our or residents choice to replace existing one plus potentially one or two other small items to enhance the South Ash Play area.

6.5 To consider including noticeboard installations around Steyning as a Community project for next year

Initially this item was borne out of a suggestion to put a noticeboard in the South Ash Play Area, as well as potentially on newly acquired open space assets to promote Town Council work and other promos / consultations – but remembering that more noticeboards means more time managing the message.

6.6 To consider pest control issues adjacent the MPF and agree any actions necessary

The office received a petition from a number of Charlton street residents who were complaining about a rat infestation, and they believed the old and occasionally broken and falling apart pipe that runs adjacent the flint wall and along the back of the properties on the MPF side was the main Rat Run.

The office investigated and met on site with pest controller and some residents and after checks the pest controller declared the following:-

We need to have the main drains checked to ensure old pipes are not feeding into them – but he suspects this is not the problem with the rat issue. Nor does he think the old pipe route on the MPF is the source of the problem, as there is apparently very little sign that they are using this at all.

He suspects that the problem lies under a number of sheds in back gardens and that the multitude of Bird feeders are supplying basic food needs for them, but potentially the problem could be more to do the line of properties themselves, and any sub terranean connective pipes or conduits or potentially connections via loft space.- although without investigation this is only supposition.

Initially residents were satisfied with an investigation, but it is likely members need to make a decision on whether further pipe checks are required, and indeed any other actions

6.7 Update concerning Steyning in Bloom grant arrangements & agree any actions

The Chair and Clerk will update on the latest situation, and any issues and concerns that the Steyning in Bloom group are facing mainly regards funding, plus to potentially finalise the STC grant arrangement amount for next year.

6.8 To agree final Armistice Day arrangements and any planned actions

The Clerk and Chair to discuss final arrangements and requirements or assistance that is needed to ensure this event goes smoothly.

6.9 To agree any solutions to proliferation of *'fly posting'* within Steyning Parish

The Chair will talk about his observations around Steyning's street furniture and for members to consider what they would like to subsequently and effectively do in order to combat the proliferation of local flyposting

6.10 To consider the response from Steyning FC re positioning of pitch markings at the MPF, plus other issues raised and to agree any subsequent actions

Please also find separately a confidential response report from the football club {numbered 6.10}, very well compiled by Mr Iain Staines, and which covers the points raised by the Clerk in his letter, the contents of which were agreed as per the motion from the September Community meeting (see below)

To consider the proposed positioning of Steyning FC pitch markings at the MPF
The football club had supplied the office with an indication of where the 2026/27 pitches would be placed, but before this committee could agree what could be put in place, the club marked them up citing that the volunteer could only do so earlier than usually planned due to availability issues, and in any case this year there was a problem with Cricket and Football Club fixtures overlapping despite the club attempting to change things with the league.
Further to the Cricket Club representation earlier in the meeting, the members expressed their displeasure that the pitches had been marked prior to permission being gained. Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Norcross that the Clerk be asked to write a strongly worded letter to the football club saying that their actions were unacceptable and in the future this committee would consider that there would be a cost involved, and pitch removal. **Agreed**
Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Norcross that STC allow the football club 4 out of 5 of the pitches already marked up (with Clerk to arrange with clubs which of the 5 should go). **Agreed**.

The club want STC to revisit its decision to reduce the number of pitches used from 5 to 4.

Members are asked to read the full document as well as the appendices to ensure all aspects of both Cricket and Football clubs perspectives and wishes are taken into account, before any further decisions are made.

6.11 To consider requests from the Steyning Rugby Football Club for equipment storage arrangements, and further Tea/Coffee service at the MPF

At the last F&GP meeting it was agreed that the Rugby Club convey the members agreement that the Tea and Coffee catering van be allowed to operate on a training day morning as a service for parents over the cold winter months. Since this agreement the Rugby Club have been very happy with the service and now the football club parents have requested that it be available on the following day also each weekend.

Request from Rugby Club for permission to have Tea & Coffee mobile unit at the MPF for training days
The Rugby Club have asked permission for a mobile unit to service the days/ mornings when the club have training as well as potentially some other days – potentially helping a service provision for the football club during their training days. The Clerk has asked for and received insurance and Catering hygiene Docs from the vendor, and sought Committee's approval for this operation, initially at no cost, for use of the Car Park.
Cllr Sharp **proposed, seconded** by Cllr S Alexander that STC accept the request from the Rugby Club {Use of mobile unit at MPF @ Nil cost} subject to it being monitored for the first year. **Agreed**



Another request from the Rugby club is for storage of equipment – currently it is being located in the Changing rooms at nil cost. Members need to agree to this and or agree to a separate temporary storage facility for equipment – the Rugby club have suggested an onsite storage unit, approximately an 8ft by 8ft collapsable container or similar would be ideal – purchased by the club.

6.12 To discuss this seasons project priorities and consider any future project aspirations for this Committee

An opportunity for members to further consider details concerning this year's projects or any proposed for next year or beyond!