

Minutes of the Meeting of the **BEACH GARDENS**
BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP held at the
Town Hall on **Wednesday, 7th September 2005** at **2.30 p.m.**

Present: -

Councillor A H Miller Chairman
Councillor C Bright
Councillor Mrs J Farrow
Councillor M Pratt
Councillor Mrs J Wheeldon

Also in attendance: -

Miss A Stockley Tourist Information Centre Manager

1) **Apologies**

There were no apologies to report for inability to attend the Meeting.

2) **Review of Minutes – 17th August 2005**

No matters were raised from the minutes of 17th August 2005.

3) **Key Functions**

The Chairman introduced the results of the Beach Gardens user survey. Councillor Bright enquired who had been surveyed and suggested that a broader range of people might be included. It was therefore AGREED:

That a survey be undertaken of visitors to the Tourist Information Centre, concerning their views about the facilities at Beach Gardens.

ACTION: The Tourist Information Centre Manager to organise a survey of visitors to the Tourist Information Centre, concerning their views about the facilities at Beach Gardens.

On reviewing the suggestions for a new refreshment facility it was clear that there was little support for the sale of hot food, and the Working Group agreed that this was not what was envisaged. There was, however, substantial support for hot drinks and cold food/snacks, which was much more in line with the semi self-service style café discussed at the previous meeting. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Pratt, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Farrow and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Working Group supports, in principle, the improvement of the refreshment facilities at Beach Gardens.

The comments on the possibility of introducing crazy golf were then examined. The Town Mayor stated there was a clear feeling that the existing putting greens should not be curtailed and Councillor Bright drew attention to the status of Beach Gardens as a unique facility. However, it was acknowledged that crazy golf holes could be fitted in around the existing facilities and Councillor

Bright highlighted a number of unused and under utilised areas that could be put to good use. The Town Mayor stated that the provision of crazy golf was a good financial prospect and Councillor Mrs Wheeldon supported the provision of a facility for children. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Pratt, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Farrow and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Working Group supports, in principle, the provision of crazy golf at Beach Gardens.

i) Pavilion

The use of the pavilion by the Bowls and Tennis Clubs was discussed, along with the present booking system. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Bright, SECONDED by Councillor Pratt and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That any use of the Pavilion must be booked in advance through the Tourist Information Centre, including current users and Clubs.

ACTION: Following approval of these minutes at the next Town Council Meeting, all users to be notified of the new booking policy.
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The question of improved access to the pavilion was briefly discussed. It was envisaged that there would be a single pay-point in future for both the café and sporting facilities. Possible objections to the provision of a café were raised, but it was agreed that the Council was obliged to increase usage of the pavilion under its Best Value programme.

ii) Tennis Courts

The current system for booking tennis courts was discussed and it was agreed that the Council's officers should be informed in advance of all court bookings. Concern was expressed over current arrangements for the use of courts by individuals for tennis coaching, and the frequency of billing. It was agreed that this matter should be investigated further and discussed at the next meeting of the Working Group. After further discussion it was PROPOSED by Councillor Bright, SECONDED by Councillor Pratt and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That all use of the Tennis Courts must be booked in advance through the Tourist Information Centre, including the Tennis Club and coaches.

iii) Bowling Green

The existing system for booking rinks on the bowling green was discussed. Questions were asked about arrangements with the Bowling Club and the availability of the rinks for the general public. After further discussion it was PROPOSED by Councillor Bright, SECONDED by Councillor Pratt and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY:

That all use of the Bowling rinks must be booked in advance through the Tourist Information Centre, including the Bowling Club.

ACTION: The Tourist Information Centre Manager to provide information about current usage of the bowling rinks to the next meeting of the Beach Gardens Best Value Review Working Group.

4) **Any Other Matters**

Councillor Bright raised the issue of signage and the need to reinstate a sign giving details of the facilities at Beach Gardens, along with opening times, at the bottom of Battlegate. Attention was also drawn to the need for more detailed signs at Beach Gardens itself.

The proposed alterations to the Pavilion were then discussed. The issues surrounding the position of a partition and the possibility of utilising storage space downstairs were raised. It was AGREED:

That option number 3 in Appendix B
be adopted in principle with the
following alterations:
no curved counter to be included in the
café;
male and female changing rooms to be
available to both sports clubs and
casual visitors;
stores 1-3 to be a shared area for both
clubs, usage to be mutually determined
between them.

ACTION: The Operations Manager to produce revised plans for the pavilion at Beach Gardens for the next meeting of the Working Group.

5) **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting of the Beach Gardens Best Value Review Working Group was set for Wednesday 12th October at 9.30 a.m.

The Meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.
