

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 24th June 2008

- Present:* Cllrs: Benj Emmerson (Chairman)
Chris Clifford
Clare Fardell
Helen Harrison
Guy Rawlinson
Ann Rogers
- Allan Burberry (Avon Wildlife Trust)
Gill Denning (Sustainable Thornbury)
Alan Vizard (Thornbury Ramblers)
- Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)
- Apologies:* Cllrs: Bob Griffin (Out of Thornbury))
Clive Parkinson (Out of Thornbury)
Phyllida Parsloe (Out of Thornbury)
- Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)
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1. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Provision of Bus Shelter

(i) Siting of Shelter in Town

After some discussion it was agreed to replace the shelter outside Gillingstool School. Members also agreed to make investigations into the possibility of providing a shelter at the stop on the Bristol Road on the route into the town.

The deputy clerk informed members that the seat on the bus stop at the Plain had been removed as it was damaged and would be repaired and reinstated as soon as possible.

(ii) Eastland Road

Members were informed that the shelter had been made as watertight as possible and that it had not suffered any vandalism recently. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

(b) Medina Close Steps

South Gloucestershire Council had estimated that the cost for the production and installation of steps on the embankment at Medina Close would be in the region of £6,000. It was agreed that South Gloucestershire Council provide a copy of the tender document with a view to obtaining quotes for the work enabling committee to apply for grants for the project.

(c) Making Thornbury Greener

(i) Compilation of Business Email Addresses

There was nothing to report on this matter.

(iii) Presentation of Information from Climate Change Survey

A booklet giving the information from the Climate Change Survey had been produced and was tabled. It was agreed that the Greener Thornbury group read the booklet before it was given to members of the public and included on the Town Council's website.

(iii) Reduction in Plastic Bags Campaign.

It was reported that there were only 100 bags left in the Town Hall and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda

(iv) Take It Away Day as a Permanent Fixture at Sort It Centre

The Take it Away Day organised by Sustainable Thornbury had been very successful and it was hoped that the group would consider a second event in the near future.

A reply from Sita.on their opinion of organising an area at Thornbury Sort It Centre for a permanent site for such a project was awaited

(d) Provision of Allotments

Members were informed that replies were awaited from the land owners who had been identified by the Cardiff students, in their report to Sustainable Thornbury,.as possibly having land for allotments

Howard Yeomans, a representative of Sustainable Thornbury, who was present at the meeting informed members that the You and Yours programme on Radio 4 were following their campaign for allotments with interest. Also that Steve Webb MP was aware of the campaign and was investigating the 1908 Act regarding allotments.

(e) Jubilee Plaque

The deputy clerk informed members that the replacement plaque would be sited in the next week.

(f) Road Resurfacing Works

Written confirmation of the resurfacing works as proposed by South Gloucestershire Council for the forthcoming year was awaited

(g) Provision of Fair Trade Signs

Members were informed that there had been a problem with the artwork for the sign but the manufacturer now had all the data required and that the signs would be completed in the near future.

(h) Cycle Route Between Thornbury and Alveston

There was nothing to report on this item.

(i) Out of Town Cycle Racks

A reply was awaited from McColls, the land owner at Oakleaze Road, whose permission was required to site cycle racks in the area.

(j) Heritage Open Doors

As yet there had only been three volunteers to give guided tours etc for the Heritage Open Doors and it was agreed that the deputy clerk email members requesting their help on the day.

(k) Risk Assessment Action Plan

The Chairman advised members that he had analysed the risk assessment and that the assessment be passed as it stood. Members agreed with this decision.

Members were informed that the recently redecorated toilets in Quaker Lane had been accounted for within the assessment.

(l) Christmas Card for 2008

The deputy clerk reported that Manorbrook School had agreed to submit designs for the Christmas card for 2008 and that the designs would be ready for the beginning of September. Members agreed that this was not leaving a great deal of time for printing etc and if the school could submit designs before the end of the summer term it would be helpful. It was agreed that if this was possible the deputy clerk organise the viewing of the designs as quickly as possible.

(m) Summer Walkabout

It was reported that the summer walkabout had been an interesting evening and that there was very little work that needed completing on the stretch of Streamside Walk between Gloucester Road and the Mediaeval Fishponds. A problem with the lack of restraining bars on the highway bridge running over the underpass on Park Road had been identified and further discussion revealed other problems with the bars which the deputy clerk agreed to report as a matter of urgency to Streetcare at South Gloucestershire Council. Members agreed that the works identified from the walkabout also be submitted to South Gloucestershire Council.

During the walkabout Allan Burberry had supplied members with valuable and interesting information of the fauna and flora of the area and it was suggested that investigations be made into the possibility of labelling a number of trees so that users of the walk could be informed as to their species etc.

2. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

A schedule of minor matters was circulated with the agenda and the information noted.

Having reported the state of the highway on Gloucester Road Thornbury the deputy clerk informed members of a letter that had been received from Darren Davidson of Street Care, South Gloucestershire Council. He stated that the highways team had carried out an inspection of the identified section in preparation of the 2008 resurfacing programme. When scored against other candidate sites this section of Gloucester Road did not make the final list. He continued that South Gloucestershire Council would assess Gloucester Road again and add it to their list of potential sites that had been put forward as requiring maintenance works to be carried out in the next year. These areas will be visited, prioritised according to surface condition, structural integrity and accident history. The list will then be broken down into appropriate resurfacing treatments and programmed for works in the next financial year. Until this process has been completed then confirmation of the works cannot be given but in the meantime any dangerous areas would be made safe as soon as possible. The information was noted.

3. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The deputy clerk informed members that unfortunately only 180 baskets had been sold as part of the Town Council's hanging basket scheme this year.

Members were also informed that the judging of Thornbury as part of the South West in Bloom competition would take place on Tuesday 15th July. Members were invited to help with the clean up works that would take place on the Sunday before the event.

(b) Composting Site

Alan Vizard informed members that the group had attended the recent volunteer's fair where contact had been made with potential new volunteers to carry out the works necessary for the running of the site.

He continued that the new machinery had been delivered and installed and that it was working well.

(c) Vilner Lane

There was nothing to report on this item.

(d) Tree Wardens Report

In the absence of the tree warden the deputy clerk informed members that the warden, along with a member of Thornbury in Bloom, had identified areas in the town where there were gaps in the tree planting. These areas are on Morton Way and Grovesend Road.

Judith Hurford, the Tree Warden, hoped to attend the next meeting to give members more information on the project.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Cllr Neil Halsall – Dropped Kerbs on Swallow Park/Osprey Park

Cllr Neil Halsall had been approached by a resident of Swallow Park/Opsrey Park Estate regarding the possibility of dropped kerbs being constructed on the entrance roads to the area from Morton Way, thus enabling someone in a wheel chair or scooter to proceed along Morton Way from Gloucester Road. This would then complete the run of Morton Way with dropped kerbs, giving full accessibility to all users. It was agreed to request that South Gloucestershire Council consider the matter.

(b) South Gloucestershire Council - Fly Tipping Strategy Consultation

The web site address to access the consultation had been circulated with the agenda. Members welcomed the strategy.

Mention was made that in the near future household trailers used to carry household rubbish to the Sort It centre may be banned from the site. The Deputy Clerk was asked to contact Sita to investigate the situation and register council's concerns if this was to go ahead.

5. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

The schedule of publications received had been circulated with the agenda for information.