

Leisure, Culture & Green Spaces Policy Development Advisory Group
26 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Councillors: Jon Olson (Chairman), Sam Bateman, Emma Beard, James Brookes, Jon Campbell, Nigel Emery, Anthony Frankland, Roger Noel, Josh Potts and Jonathan Taylor

Absent: Councillor Clive Trott

8 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 were received.

9 **TOUR OF WARNHAM NATURE RESERVE**

Members received a comprehensive tour of Warnham Nature Reserve from the Countryside and Ecology Manager.

The tour included the Warnham Discovery Hub, part of the Discovery Trail, Shelley Wildlife garden, Visitor Centre and Herons Way Café.

Members felt the tour was extremely informative and worthwhile and thanked the Parks and Countryside team for hosting the PDAG.

10 **OWLBEECH WOODS**

The PDAG received a presentation from the Countryside & Ecology Manager. Members were reminded that the Middle Heath enclosure in Owlbeech Woods was historically open from October-March and closed in the summer months to protect the heathland wildlife.

PDAG members considered various management options for the area balancing the need to protect the wildlife, limit erosion and enable local people to access outdoor spaces.

It was agreed that Middle Heath would re-open this year from 1 October 2023 until the beginning of January 2024. Site surveys would continue and the opening arrangements would be reconsidered in August 2024.

11 **MEMORIAL TO THE POET PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY**

The Head of Leisure and Culture gave a presentation to the PDAG on the proposed Memorial to the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley.

The council has been working with the Shelley Memorial Project group, who wish to commemorate the poet with a sculpture that will be sited in Horsham Park.

Public consultations will take place in early 2024 seeking feedback on the shortlisted designs.

12 **UPDATE ON LAND PURCHASES**

The PDAG were updated on potential land purchases within the district. Further information will be provided at future PDAGs.

13 **UPDATE ON THE CAPITOL**

The Head of Leisure and Culture updated the PDAG on future options for The Capitol.

Consultants had been working with the council over the last year and had recently provided reports with various options.

The Chairman advised the PDAG that a site visit and full Member briefing would take place during October and any decision will need to be considered at Council.

14 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE LEISURE, CULTURE & GREEN SPACES PORTFOLIO**

There were no relevant items to note on the Forward Plan for the Leisure, Culture and Green Spaces portfolio.

The meeting closed at 7.07 pm having commenced at 5.15 pm

CHAIRMAN