



NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING 13th APRIL 2022

CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT – Community Hall, Sports Pavilion & Nursery Project

At the last meeting of Full Council, it was reported that the De Haan Charitable Trust had been contacted to enquire whether the Town Council may retain the grant funding award of £25,000.00 in light of the change in direction of the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery Project. A response to that enquiry is still awaited. However, a question was raised as to whether the Council should also contact all other contributors to make the same enquiry and it would, indeed, be right and proper to do so. The Council is requested, therefore, to make a formal resolution to that end at this meeting.

Following receipt of the formal notice of planning consent, and having now formally approved a project budget within which the 'Budget-Led' Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery Project' will now be delivered, the application for a PWLB loan in the amount of £1 million has now been submitted to KALC and it has been confirmed that all required documentation is in order and that the application has now been passed to Parish Borrowing. The outcome of the loan application is currently awaited.

The Project Steering Group recently met with both the residential developer and his drainage engineer, together with representatives from the football club, cricket club and nursery school. An update was provided as to the status of the project and there was opportunity for a three-way conversation regarding logistical matters, including re-alignment of pitches and provision of temporary accommodation as well as implementation of the finalised drainage scheme which incorporates the sports field in respect of any weather event in excess of a 1 in a 30 year event and up to a 1 in a 100 year event. The meeting was very positive and a subsequent site-meeting has been arranged to explore relevant logistical matters in more detail.

The Project Steering Group were tasked by the Council with reviewing the Project Design Brief and presenting a revised Brief to Council for approval in order that the Project Management Team can then be

instructed in regard to engaging the appointed architect to prepare revised design drawings for planning submission. It was important to be able to meet with the key stakeholders and to meet with the Local Planning Authority Planning Officer prior to presenting any revised Design Brief to Council for approval, since (a) the new facility still needs to meet the needs of all users and (b) the Council needs to be reassured that any amendments to the original planning submission will not impact on its ability to draw down the Community Benefit Contribution identified within the s106 Agreement. However, it has not been possible to arrange a planning meeting ahead of this Council meeting, therefore, the presentation of a revised Design Brief at this meeting will not be possible and will now be presented at the earliest possible opportunity in order to avoid any further delays.

Recommended Actions:

To instruct the Clerk to contact all project donors to enquire as to whether the Council may retain their donation in light of the change in direction of the project.

Town Clerk

6th April 2022