



**NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING 13TH MARCH 2017
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – CAPITAL PROJECTS**

AGENDA ITEM: 14(i)(a)

PROPOSED COMMUNITY HALL / SPORTS PAVILION – UPDATE

The Community Hall / Sports Pavilion Steering Group met for the second time with the appointed Architect's Team and the Synergy Project Management Team on Tuesday 7th March 2017 at the Architect's Studio and Offices in Hythe. This was a further preliminary design meeting, at which time the building design was reviewed and considerations based on practicalities and build cost were discussed.

The Architect had also prepared a general masterplan for the site – to be presented to the District Council along with the preliminary community hall / sports pavilion design at a pre-planning application meeting which was to be scheduled. The purpose of the pre-app meeting would be to gauge the initial response of the District Council Planning Officer to the project and to ascertain any planning issues / constraints that may arise and can be dealt with before the Town Council moves to submit a formal planning application, noting that planning consent will be essential evidence of deliverability in supporting funding applications.

The need to appoint additional consultants at this stage to undertake required surveys and provide additional important advice and information was highlighted by the Synergy Team and duly noted by members of the Steering Group. The Synergy Project Management Team was to seek fee proposals in regard to the above in order to ensure best value principles are applied in regard to consultant appointments, for which funding has already been allocated by the Town Council.

It was noted that preliminary funding investigations should now be undertaken in order that the Town Council has a better understanding of where grant funding might be realistically sourced and can, therefore, be in a better position to ascertain a realistic maximum project budget. Members of the Steering Group will, thus, be tasked with making initial funding enquiries. Once there is a clearer picture regarding funding sources more detailed design work can progress in a much more informed manner.

Two further design meetings have been arranged, which will also take place at the Architect's Offices in order that easier access to ICT and relevant design materials is available. In the meantime, the Architect is to arrange a pre-app meeting with the relevant District Council Planning Officers, which is to be attended by the Town Council's appointed Planning Consultant as well as the Architect Team and Councillor Rolfe and the Town Clerk will be in attendance in an observational capacity. A further independent Steering Group

meeting is also to be scheduled to explore the issue of funding and any other matters that may need to be considered prior to the next design meeting.

Recommended Actions:

- None at this time

Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
13th March 2017