



NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING 16th DECEMBER 2020

CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT – Proposed Community Hall and Sports Pavilion

Section 106 and Legal matters

Here is an overview of progress made in relation to the development of the new Community Hall and Sports Pavilion ('the CHSP').

I met with FHDC's Head of Planning – [REDACTED] to discuss the current draft of the Section 106 and matters relating to its implementation. A range of issues were considered to enable me to provide feedback to the PSG. We need to ensure that the conditions linked to the development of the CHSP do not impede the progress of the project.

Following the afore-mentioned meeting with the Head of Planning, I chaired a meeting of the Project Steering Group in October to clarify specific matters arising. The PSG members then formulated a strategy in relation to next steps to be taken.

A meeting involving [REDACTED] of Akehurst Homes ('the Developer'), a representative of Hume Planning who has been advising both parties throughout the planning stage of the project, the Town Clerk, the Mayor and myself took place. All parties discussed the current draft of the Section 106 and issues arising thereof. The Developer will be taking further legal advice and we are awaiting feedback from him before further engaging with the Town Council's lawyer (who has been updated on the current state of play).

Funding update

I am pleased to advise that the Board of Trustees of the Roger de Haan Charitable Trust met last month to consider our grant application. I have received feedback that the Trustees were very interested in the project and have some more detailed questions. I have been invited to present to the Board in February 2021 to answer any questions they may have. The range of key stakeholders we have engaged to support the project – including the Shepway Sports Trust and health services providers will, without doubt, evidence the wide ranging positive impact of the project for future generations.

Additionally, Sport England's Head of Investment contacted me to advise that she had discussed our project with her colleagues in the strategic planning department. Unfortunately, the CHSP falls outside of their 'strategic framework criteria', and with the closure of the Capital Assets Fund due to the current pandemic there are no Sport England sources of funding currently available to us. She did say, it would have been a very different conversation this time last year and is very impressed by what we have achieved.

Furthermore, she stated that the Capital Assets Fund is likely to open some time in 2021 and that she will call me as soon as she is aware of the exact timescale, she has also promised to let me know if any other potential funding streams are brought to her attention that may be of use to us.

As stated in last month's report, an application to the Collyer Fergusson Trust has yet to be drafted but will go before the charity's next board meeting in March 2021

The Project Team is still on standby pending finalisation of the Section 106.

As this is the final Capital Projects Report of 2020, I would like to thank my fellow PSG colleagues for their help and support this past year – especially in light of the current pandemic. All being well we hope, next year, to take further positive strides in developing this long-awaited new amenity for the local community. Onward and onward

Councillor Patricia Rolfe
Chair of CHSP Project Steering Group
8th December 2020
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