

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	25 October 2016
Title:	Open Spaces Working Group / Elms Park Improvements
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk Janine Howells, Asset Manager

Purpose of this Report

1. To provide a verbal / written update on the Elms Park Improvements being undertaken by the Open Spaces Working Group (OSWG).

Update

2. TEP submitted the planning application to SODC and this was registered on 2 June. SODC advised that a decision on the application should be made by 1 September. A site meeting was held with the Planning Officer on 19 July with Officers explaining the proposed project.
3. On the 10 August a letter was received from the Planning Officer detailing a number of minor issues that require addressing within the application. These issues have been discussed with Officers and TEP. The letter is attached at Appendix 1.
4. On 29 September a written response to the comments and revised plans were submitted by TEP to the Planning Officer. The covering letter is attached at Appendix 2.
5. The Planning Officer will need to consult on the amended plans that have been submitted and accordingly amend the timescale for the determination of the planning application to 30 November 2016.
6. Officers and TEP have been asked by the SODC Urban Design Officer if they could use some of the drawings that were prepared by the pupils at John Hampden Primary School during the consultation process on the improvements to the park. SODC are currently preparing a revised Design Guide and the purpose of these drawings would be to highlight an example of good practice in terms of community involvement. Permission has been given and the copies of the drawings supplied. The Headteacher is very pleased that his school pupil's opinions and involvement is valued within the scheme.
7. Officers continue to manage the project in line with the timescales and financial contribution as detailed in the s106 Agreement. Rectory Homes confirmed their commitment to these contributions when their revised plans for The Elms were discussed at the Council meeting on 20 September 2016. The Council has to date committed funds of £26,969.40 towards the project.

Action Required

To note the report.