

Decisions of the Public Realm Forum

8 December 2017

Members Present:-

The Assistant Director Transportation and
Highways Commissioning (Chairman)

Councillor R Grover

Also present:-

Governance Team Leader
Interim Strategic Lead Commissioner - Highways
Commissioning Lead Environment
Mr Phillip Davies (Conservation Expert and constituent)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed those present to the first meeting of the Public Realm Forum. He outlined that the Environment Committee had resolved to establish the Public Realm Forum and illustrated the purpose of the Forum.

The chairman welcomed Mr Phillip Davies (Conservation Expert and constituent)

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

An apology of absence was received from Councillor D Kay.

3. FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chairman introduced the item and the intentions of the Terms of Reference.

Having considered the Terms of Reference the following comments were made;

- That the Public Realm Forum is to cover the whole Borough – not just conservation areas.
- The Public Realm Forum would like the opportunity to review emerging schemes / projects to look at best practice and value for money.
- The Terms of Reference should include that “the role of the Forum is to develop an integrated management approach”.

ACTION:

- That the Chairman agreed to consider the comments and to update the Public Realm Forum Terms of Reference in consultation with the Chairman of the Environment Committee.
- That subject to the above resolution the Chairman of the Public Realm Forum will bring an updated Terms of Reference to the next meeting of the Forum.

4. PARKS SIGNAGE

The Chairman introduced the item and the intentions of the discussion.

The Public Realm Forum discussed that it would be useful to look at by-laws and particularly those around cycling which will help to inform signage. It was noted that further consideration is required in order to reduce clutter to be reduced. It was suggested that parks signage is key to reducing clutter in parks. The Public Realm Forum discussed whether different types of signage such as road markings or images on paths and the Chairman agreed that all types of signage should be considered although Capital costs would need to be well thought through.

ACTION:

The Public Realm Forum noted the item and agreed that the information below would be provided

- Signage in Copthall Park only or for parks across the borough.
- Dates for each project / park to be provided so that views can be provided in a timely manner.
- Views being sought on other items in Parks such as benches etc. If so, this item should be added to a future agenda item.

ACTION:

- That members of the Public Realm Forum were requested to provide any suggestions for Parks Signage to the Chairman.

5. BOROUGH BOUNDARY AND TOWN CENTRE SIGNAGE

The Chairman introduced the item and the intentions of the discussion and he stated that the Council is considering the potential to upgrade the current Borough Boundary and Town Centre signs and an audit of the current signs is being undertaken at present.

ACTION:

The Public Realm Forum agreed that the following information be provided:

- Information on any specific design requirements
- Confirmation on the timescales for input into designs
- Confirmation on whether any signs are in conservation areas and if so confirm the design of these signs.
- Confirmation on the number of these signs in the borough
- Confirmation the funding arrangements for the signs – costs fully covered by sponsorship

It was noted that a draft Signage Policy does exist and the forum agreed that this would be useful for the Borough, to communicate where and when we put up signage. Re (Reginal Enterprise) are working on the policy.

6. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

ACTION:

- That a forward work programme be created and published on the council's website and be a standard item of future agendas

Potential items to be added to the work programme and associated actions were;

- **Best Practice Examples.**

ACTION: Phillip Davies to produce information for the next forum and then use this to review a project such as a Town Centre. Re Highways, Conservation Officer and Heritage Champion to be invited to attend the forum.

- **Emerging Technology – including Electric Vehicle Charging**
The council are looking at both free standing units and lamp post charging for electric vehicles. We will also be using existing infrastructure differently in the future such as wifi in lamp posts.
- **Road Space Asset Review**
Potentially an item for a future forum.
- **Town Centre Strategies**
Link discussions at the Public Realm Forum with to Town Centre Strategies. Rachel Williamson to be invited to a future forum.

Dates for meetings in 2018 to be booked and publicised online.

7. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None

The meeting finished at 11:15am