

Community Focus Scrutiny Committee



Date:	Thursday, 25 July 2013
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members:	Councillor Christine Akeroyd (Chairman) Councillors Tim Armit, Julie Brickles, Fabian Craig-Wilson, Susanne Cunningham, Gail Goodman JP, Peter Hardy, Kathleen Harper, Paul Hodgson, Barbara Nash, Elizabeth Oades, Dawn Prestwich, John Singleton JP, Vivienne M Willder
Other Councillors:	Councillor Susan Fazackerley (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture) Councillor Dr Trevor Fiddler (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development) Councillor Charlie Duffy
Officers:	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Morrison, Clare Platt, Paul Walker, Mark Evans, Darren Bell, Lyndsey Lacey
Other Attendees:	Mrs Kim Cook (Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau) Ms Louise Pope (Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau) Mr Tim Lince (Acting Chair of Lowther Gardens Trust) Mr Mark Alexander (Theatre Manager, Lowther Pavilion) About 12 other members of the public were present at the meeting

Chairman

In the absence of Councillor Mulholland, Councillor Christine Akeroyd acted as Chairman for the purposes of the meeting.

Public Platform

Prior to consideration of item 7 relating to the Planning Improvement Plan, Mr Fred Moor (resident of St Annes) had requested to speak under the public platform arrangements. The Chairman invited Mr Moor to the table to address the committee.

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and that any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 June 2013 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 25:

Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson for Councillor Nigel Goodrich

Councillor Elizabeth Oades for the Mayor, Councillor Linda Nulty

4. Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau – Monitoring Report

Mrs Kim Cook (Manager) and Ms Louise Pope (Deputy Manager) of the Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) attended the meeting to present the Fylde CAB Annual Report summarising its performance and service across the year. A copy of the full report was circulated with the agenda.

Kim Cook introduced the report by making reference to the Service Level Agreement that the Council has in place with CAB. In doing so, she provided the committee with an overview of key points arising from her report with particular reference to the various performance measures both quantitative and qualitative that the Council has in place with Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau.

In brief, the full report provided details of the advice service provided and staffing arrangements in place. In addition, it provided an update on partnership working and funding opportunities since the last report to committee and the various funding restraints. It also provided statistical information (required by the Service Level Agreement) including: client/enquiry numbers in 2012/13, classification of types of enquiries made by clients, the percentage of Fylde residents using the CAB service including a breakdown of ward usage and statistics identified as of particular interest to FBC. The report concluded with details of its future proposals to meet the demands of the service.

Mrs Cook then went to further highlight a number of areas including: the successful winter project schemes which were run in conjunction with other key agencies/partners. In addition, she referred to the successful bid for the Transition Fund (designed to assist the development of infrastructure organisations) and Tenancy Support Project which was going well.

Councillor Oades complimented Mrs Cook on the work of CAB. In doing so, she stated that the body provides a wonderful service to the local community and makes good use of the grant provided by the Council. This was endorsed by Councillor Peter Hardy.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To note the report and to thank Mrs Cook and Ms Pope for the presentation and their attendance at the meeting.
2. To pass on the Committee's thanks and appreciation to the staff and volunteers for the good work undertaken during the year.

5. Annual Report – Lowther Gardens Trust

Darren Bell (Cultural Services Manager) was invited to introduce the Annual Report. In doing so, members were reminded that the Council currently has a five year Service Level Agreement with the operating company of Lowther Gardens Trust, Lowther Gardens (Lytham) Management Ltd, to provide services at Lowther Pavilion. It was reported that as part of this agreement, the Trust provide a report to one of the Council's overview & scrutiny committees at the conclusion of the

financial year, summarising performance over the previous year. A copy of the report was circulated with the agenda.

Mr Tim Lince (Acting Chair of Lowther Gardens Trust) and Mark Alexander (Theatre Manager Lowther Pavilion) attended the committee to present the key points arising from the report.

By way of introduction, Mr Lince made reference to the work undertaken by the Friends of Lowther Group. He then went on to refer to community use of the building and the various projects and programmes put in place to develop Lowther over the last 12 months including: the work undertaken with various local schools/ dance schools and key artists/acts to provide a diverse and balanced programme of performing arts and entertainment.

Councillor Hardy commented that he would like to see more local amateur productions using the theatre. In response, Mr Lince stated that the community use of the building had gone up from 121 to 169 performances thus suggesting improved community usage.

Councillor Brickles asked for further clarification on the use of the council grant and expenditure proposed over the forthcoming months. This was addressed by Mr Alexander.

Councillor Oades enquired about use of the free use of the building for 10 council meetings per year and the AGM. In addition, she sought clarification on the recharging arrangements for staff time. An undertaken was given to Councillor Oades that appropriate officers would confirm the position to her in writing.

Councillor Craig-Wilson asked about improvements being made to the building with particular reference to the sound system and seating arrangements. These questions were addressed in turn by Mr Alexander.

Following detailed consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To note the report.
2. To thank Mr Lince and Mr Alexander for the report and their attendance at the meeting.

6. Art Collection Review

Clare Platt (Director of Community Services) was invited to introduce the report on a proposed review of the Art Collection.

In summary, the report provided an overview of the background to the Council's art service collection, activity over the years and the work of the existing Arts Working Group.

Ms Platt stated that in the absence of a defined strategy for the management and development of the collection, it would be prudent to undertake a review process with elected member input. She went on to say that such input would provide valuable direction in developing a strategy/policy framework that would deliver best value from the art collection.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED to appoint a Task and Finish Group comprising councillors Christine Akeroyd, Tim Armit, Julie Brickles, Fabian Craig-Wilson and Kath Harper to undertake the proposed art service review with a view to reporting back to committee at appropriate intervals.

7. Planning Improvement Plan

Further to reports presented to the 4 April 2013 meeting and subsequent Cabinet, Paul Walker (Director of Development Services) and Mark Evans (Head of Planning and Regeneration) presented an updated report on the Planning Improvement Plan.

In summary, the report addressed the recommendations made as a result of the recent planning peer review and sought agreement to the action planning work which followed. Members were asked to further comment on the proposed action plans for each of the 12 recommendations which had been updated since the last meeting.

The Chairman invited members to consider and comment upon the individual action plans in turn. Various members of the committee commented upon and sought clarification on a number of areas and these were addressed by Mr Walker and Mr Evans.

Following detailed consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To note the progress of the 12 action plans detailed in the report.
2. To agree to monitoring reports being presented to scrutiny every four months
3. To seek council representation on the Task and Finish Group appointed by Lancashire County Council set up to look at the planning consultation process between county, borough and statutory bodies.
4. To expand Action Plan 2(12) to incorporate of key utility/organisations.
5. To add to Action Plan 2 an additional training session on the Local Plan and the wider planning process at which all members of the council are invited.
6. To delete the word "Kirkham" and replace with "Lytham" (Action Plan 12 (2) refers).

(Councillor Elizabeth Oades and Peter Hardy wished their names to be recorded as having voted against the above decision)

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