

**Notes from the Meeting of the
Open Spaces, Sports & Recreation (OSSR) Group
held on 16th July 2019**

PRESENT Councillors A Hutton, Mrs U Mann, G Parker
Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Mayor),

IN ATTENDANCE:- Town Clerk, Assistant to the Town Clerk

APOLOGIES Councillor J Moody

ORIGINS

West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) had invited the Town Council whether it wished to participate in, or lead on, the development of an OSSR Plan for Tavistock. It had clarified that such a plan was advisory and, as such, did not bind the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to the particular allocation of resources.

REVIEW

A discussion took place around, if the Council were minded to lead on the project, how the Group might operate including the allocation of tasks/responsibilities, timetabling etc. In the discussion arising reference was made to a range of factors including:

- The importance attached to the LPA appropriately advising prospective beneficiaries of:
 - The potential availability of monies once secured;
 - The time table for drawdown.and that the Town Council would be happy to provide a venue and Councillors to attend and support an information/engagement meeting by the LPA.
- Concern as to whether the information provided by WDBC was up to date and consequential uncertainties – both around data quality and the engagement with prospective beneficiaries;
- Noting that some allocations already had clear and identified beneficiaries. However the S106 funds from sites such as Callington Road had yet to be allocated. Concern was raised that the LPA should ensure that allocations were not left unused or allocated without appropriate due diligence for all prospective beneficiaries;
- Various plan formats, their merits and drawbacks including a freestanding plan of the Town Council (albeit advisory only), inclusion within a Neighbourhood Plan for the Town and the status that might/might not be attributed to other options.

Arising from consideration of the above reference was made to a range of issues including:

- The importance of stakeholder involvement;
- costs;
- resource/capacity (noting that to lead on a Plan would involve substantial Member input);
- if a Neighbourhood Plan were the preferred option, the time it would take for such a Plan to be adopted and the necessarily prospective nature of same;
- How monies already identified were to be allocated;
- How future awards might be shaped;
- The value which TTC could bring as a participant in the allocation process.

CONCLUSION

Having reviewed the position the consensus of the Group was that:

- Looking forward, the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan workstream be invited to consider the possibility of introducing a theme to develop an OSSR in connection with future allocations;
- That in view of the responsibilities of the LPA, Town Council capacity and skills issues, and that any such Plan was advisory in nature, the Town Council not lead on a OSSR but contribute to the work of the LPA. The LPA being advised that the Town Council welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the development of an OSSR and requested that it continue to be involved. Also:-
 - With regard to past allocations (including Callington Road)
 - assurance be sought from the LPA regarding notifications to interested parties of the potential availability of monies (as and when appropriate) and the associated timelines for drawdown;
 - in the event such assurance could not be fully given at this time the LPA be requested to communicate accordingly with prospective beneficiaries.
 - That as and when appropriate, in consultation with the LPA, the Town Council initiate its own consultation/engagement in respect of those sites identified which were within its ownership/control.