

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & LICENSING COMMITTEE
BRIEFING NOTE
OPEN SPACES, SPORTS & RECREATION PLAN (OSSR)
2nd SEPTEMBER, 2019**

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Tavistock Town Council was invited by West Devon Borough Council to participate in the formulation of an Open Spaces, Sports & Recreation Plan for Tavistock, in March 2019;
- 1.2 West Devon Borough Council explained at that time that 'OSSR Plans are considered a useful tool (either as part of a Neighbourhood Plan or stand-alone) to guide both spend of existing OSSR s106 contributions (where not committed to a single named project) and also to assist Officers in negotiating future OSSR s106 contributions when dealing with new planning applications. Such Plans can identify and prioritise local aspirations and projects, and contribute to an evidence base from which named projects can be referenced and included within s106 agreements';
- 1.3 A local (town) Council can choose to either to participate in, or lead on, such a Plan. In either event the Plan is advisory only (unless adopted as part of the Planning Policy Framework) and the responsibility for the allocation of monies sits with the Local Planning Authority.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 An OSSR Group was appointed by Council in May 2019 to consider the part the Town Council would like to play in the development of the Plan, and to discuss 'next steps' (OSSR Group consisted of Councillors A Hutton, Mrs U Mann, J Moody and G Parker);
- 2.2 All Members of Tavistock Town Council were invited to attend a presentation from Alexis Huggins (Specialist – Place Making (Open Space, Sport and Recreation) for South Hams and West Devon Borough Council at the Development Management & Licensing Committee Meeting held on 11th June 2019;
- 2.3 The first Meeting of the Town Council's OSSR Group took place on 16th July 2019, the Notes from that Meeting are at Appendix 1 (attached);
- 2.4 Further correspondence and information was received from West Devon Borough Council following the above presentation, which addresses some of the points raised at the Meeting - Appendices 2 and 3 (attached).

3. OPTIONS

- 3.1 The options for the Town Council were either;

- a) to consider whether to 'lead' on the development of an OSSR Plan for Tavistock; or
- b) provide support to West Devon Borough Council in the development and delivery of their Plan for the town.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Meeting held on the 16th July included wide ranging discussions from which the consensus was that, provided West Devon Borough Council could give assurance with regard the consultation with various potential beneficiary groups within the town, and the subsequent allocation of monies, it was more appropriate for West Devon Borough Council to lead on the OSSR Plan, with support from Tavistock Town Council.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) That following discussions with West Devon Borough Council it be advised that Tavistock Town Council would welcome the opportunity to contribute to an OSSR Plan for the town, led by West Devon Borough Council; and
- b) That Tavistock Town Council stresses the importance of potential beneficiary groups being notified, as and when appropriate, of the availability of the funds, together with timescales for drawdown.

**MRS JAN SMALLACOMBE
ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN CLERK
SEPTEMBER 2019
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & LICENSING COMMITTEE**