

15. LISKEARD AND DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION (LDSA)

To consider the letter (attached) proposing a partnership approach in the delivery of the Roundbury Sports Pitches and associated facilities.

Relevant Facts – Regarding the proposal contained in the letter, the Town Council does not have the powers, income streams and staff of a Borough Council. It has its own properties in need of investment and has picked up duties and responsibilities from other organisations to ensure that the services were not lost to the town or to ensure the facilities were provided in the first place. The Town Council only has 3 full time members of staff and has used and is continuing to use grants and income streams of various sources, including in relation to Roundbury project Section 106 monies. It is important to progress the project which will mean investing time in doing relevant things and then making progress reports to the LDSA.

The Town Council is not a Borough Council.

- We do not have the income streams – (car parking receipts – industrial unit rents – business rates – domestic rates – water rates – Council house rents) – the Town Council need to be careful not just with the initial capital costs, but the ongoing revenue implications.
- We do not have the legal powers of a Local Authority – (compulsory purchase powers - chartered surveyors, engineers, clerks of works, Sports & Recreation Development officer and 3 grants officers etc 600 staff – hence the Town Council are cooperating with Cornwall Council which has commissioned special planning advice on the site from Pinsent Mason LLP on the conduct of Planning Gain projects and CPO powers.

The Town Council does have only 3 full time members of staff.

- We have always been responsible for the operation of the Public Hall (which has been improved and is being improved further) – Guildhall (which is in need of a significant refurbishment including disabled access) – Forester's Hall – Allotments (Pengover) – War Memorial – Thorn Park – Rapson's Multi Use Games Area (which is the subject of replacement design and build project).
- We have taken over responsibility from others (Cornwall Council, private sector – local charity) - public toilets – town centre CCTV – Neighbourhood Plan – grit bin top ups – defibrillators – eastern avenue land and footpath - (about to have Castle Park transferred from Cornwall Council) – Allotments (Persimmon Homes being provided).

Roundbury Scheme

- designed for delivery by a Local Authority before the 2009 Review of Local Government - that is Liskeard based Local Authority 600 staff and multiple income car parking / industrial unit rents / domestic and commercial rates etc. An organisation with economies of scale that could simply absorb an escalation in costs. It was not originally seen as being undertaken by the Town Council with 3 full time staff and an annual gross budget of £1/2 million and the first phase Option 2* at Roundbury is costed as a £1.3 million project. Hence, we have sought a joint approach with Cornwall Council and the developer if they are willing.

***Option 2: Providing Additional Facilities - Grass Pitches and Athletics**

Training

The independent supply and demand analysis shows the need for:

- Additional adult and youth 11v11 football pitches for competitive matches
- A training area primarily for rugby.
- Floodlit athletics training facility including 150m 'J' track and jumping pits.

Liskeard and District Sports Association (LDSA).

Over many years, some individual members of the LDSA have supported, not just their specific sporting interests, but the town and community of Liskeard in a much wider context, such as, the Christmas lights, work on twinning exchanges and their involvement in a range of voluntary groups that make up the essential lifeblood of the town. Some have been publicly commended by the Town Council at the annual "Community Champion" awards and indeed one is an "Honoured Burgess" and others might in due process become "Honoured Burgess". On an individual basis it is a clear that these good people. However, there have been issues relating to meeting with the LDSA as a group. These have been occurred both with Councillors and staff. There are indications from external sources, that they also have found elements of the LDSA difficult to work with. These issues include:

Blaming the Town Council for what are said to be the failures of "Councils" dating back to 2004, to secure the land and the ensure the Section 106 agreement's conferred land ownership. In reality, this job would have been much simpler if the land had passed to Cornwall Council as the successor planning authority.

Indicating that the Town Council had the power to bang the table and demand the land be handed over. – This actually, does not accurately reflect the Town Councils power. It fails to take account of the legal guidance Cornwall Council obtained on "planning gain and CPO" legislation regarding the Roundbury project. It is an unnecessarily harsh approach to the issue and likely to result in failure in an already difficult project.

Unwillingness to look beyond the LDSA and gain a more comprehensive view of age and gender-based sports groups and their needs, and a more extensive geographic area to understand more fully the context of sports facilities provision. This was most notable in the LDSA response to the Town Council's consultant being asked to make contact those groups. Later, again the adverse reaction to being told that the Consultant Options included help for a group not closely involved with the LDSA (which the Town Council did not select).

Next Steps:-

Technical Advice – as it has done to date, the Town Council will seek appropriate advice from qualified sources to provide the information necessary to support each phase of scheme as it develops. Noting the Section 106's monies already approved by Cornwall Council against that type of expenditure. This would include the road access and layout and type of sports pitches and

supporting infrastructure. As indicated in the Option 2 researched by the consultant and adopted by the Town Council.

Liskeard and District Sporting Association – Has a key role in supporting the planning application for sports pitches and associated facilities at Roundbury, in this and future phases as this is based upon their needs as indicated in the demand analysis conducted by the Town Councils consultants.

With the current issues regarding the LDSA in partnership working, it is thought that the Town Council should not be delivering the project in partnership with the LDSA. Updating them as and when each stage is progressed and not have standing attendance for councillors or staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Town Council does not undertake the Roundbury project as a joint project with the Liskeard and District Sports Association. It seeks their support on the planning application for the project to deliver what has been indicated as the need through the demand analysis. To inform the LDSA when developments in the project are occurring on and as and when basis and not have councillor and staff attendance on a standing basis.