

PROPOSED TERMINATION OF RURAL MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN RELATION TO JANES LANE PAVILION

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Wards Affected: St Andrews, Burgess Hill
Key Decision: No
Report to: Cabinet
15 October 2018

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval to terminate the Rural Management Agreement (RMA) relating to Janes Lane pavilion (the Pavilion) at Janes Lane recreation ground, Burgess Hill.

Summary

2. This report outlines the issues related to the Rural Management Agreement (RMA) relating to Janes Lane Pavilion.

Recommendations

3. **Cabinet is recommended to:**
 - a) **Authorise the termination of the Rural Management Agreement relating to the Pavilion with Burgess Hill Town Council (BHTC).**
 - b) **Delegate the Heads of Regulatory Services and Corporate Resources to serve 6 months' notice to BHTC, and any such other terms and conditions as the Solicitor to the Council and/or Head of Corporate Resources may recommend to protect the Council's position.**

Background

3. Mid Sussex District Council (The Council) owns Janes Lane recreation ground which is an area of land measuring approximately 5.8 acres located in the north east area of Burgess Hill. It comprises a recreation field, a playground and Pavilion (The Pavilion). The Pavilion consists of a room/hall with toilets, public toilets, showers, changing facilities and store rooms together with an adjacent car park.
4. The day to day management of the Pavilion (except the public toilets) is carried out by the Council. Burgess Hill Town Council (BHTC), under the RMA, manage the public toilets and the hiring of the Pavilion to members of the public, local businesses and community groups. The RMA entitles BHTC to 50% of the net income derived from the hiring fees for all lettings, and the Council receives the remainder.
5. Consultations have been undertaken with all the various users and the options have been discussed at length between Outdoors Services and Corporate Estates & Facilities.

6. The Council wishes to bring the management of this facility in-house, in line with the management of other pavilions within the District. This will lead to improvements in the overall standard of maintenance of the public toilets and the management of the whole Pavilion for the benefit of the existing users of the Pavilion and the wider community..

Policy Context

7. Terminating the RMA will improve the standard of maintenance and overall condition of the public toilets to the benefit of the local community and will preserve a vital community service.

Other Options Considered

8. The alternative option would be to take no action and keep the status quo. However this would mean that the condition of the public toilets would continue to be maintained to a standard lower than that set by the Facilities Team and MSDC would be financially worse off.

Financial Implications

9. The proposals will result in a revenue income of £12,000pa coming to MSDC. Costs would be saved by terminating the RMA and taking the maintenance of the public toilets in house.

Risk Management Implications

10. Not terminating the RMA will result in a reduced income for the Council and may risk hirers relocating elsewhere which will further negatively impact on the income to MSDC and the wider public.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

11. The recommendations contained within this report do not have an adverse or negative impact on Equality and Customer Service.

Other Material Implications

12. None

Background Papers

13. None