

3. BEECH HURST GARDENS, HAYWARDS HEATH – USE OF SURPLUS CHARITY FUNDS TO HELP FUND THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BEECH HURST HUT AND SURROUNDINGS AND NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT.

Introduction

- (1) All serving members on Mid Sussex District Council are trustees of Beech Hurst Gardens, Haywards Heath, Charity No. 305202 and St John's Park, Burgess Hill, Charity No. 305189.
- (2) Cllr Mandy Thomas Aitken is the Chairman of the Charity Trustees for 2012/13 and Cllr Gordon Marples is the Vice-Chairman of the Charity Trusts.
- (3) Beech Hurst Gardens receives a substantial annual income from the letting of cottages on the site and the restaurant facility. In the 1st April 2012 the surplus on the Beech Hurst charity account was £70,000.
- (4) Charity income and will be higher in 2012/13 given the additional turnover rent from the family restaurant facility, higher rents on the cottages and a review of the base rent for the restaurant in October 2013. £15,000 of the present surplus has been spent to date in 2012/13 and this report asks that the remaining surplus is spent on further projects at Beechhurst.
- (5) Modest income of about £10K is generated at St John's Park, Burgess Hill but the costs of running the facility are some 5 times greater than the income in 2011/12.

The Current Proposals

- (6) At the Cabinet meeting on the 16th October 2012 a programme of works was agreed for a number of pavilions across the District including work at Beech Hurst Gardens and at St John's Park. At its meeting on the 24th October 2012 Council agreed finance for these works.
- (7) It would assist the delivery of the works at Beech Hurst Gardens if charity income from Beech Hurst Gardens was used towards the cost of these works with expenditure likely to run into 2013/14. The works at Beech Hurst Gardens involve the renovation of the Beech Hurst hut to extend the internal accommodation, insulate, plaster and redecorate, install a kitchen facility, install a WC facility and to work on the quadrant and wider park to allow for outside café seating. The major cost of this project is to install a water supply which is the starting point for the project. A total of £45,000 is required
- (8) In addition, included in the capital programme, there is a scheme to upgrade the playground at Beechhurst in 2013/14. This will provide a safer and more exciting play experience for children. This scheme will cost £40,000 in total of which £6000 can be met from S106 monies from Haywards Heath developments but £34,000 is required from Charity funds. The upgrade will also deliver a small revenue saving because the new equipment will be cheaper to maintain going forward.
- (9) The charity trustees are asked to approve the use of charity income to help deliver these improvements at Beech Hurst Gardens in 2013. This proposed work can be properly financed from charitable income.

Recommendation

- (10) **The charity trustees are recommended to:-**
- (1) **Approve the use of surplus Beech Hurst charity funds totalling £45,000 for the renovation of the hut at Beech Hurst Gardens and the surrounding quadrant and the garden areas.**
 - (2) **Approve the use of surplus Beech Hurst charity funds totalling £34,000 towards the cost of improvement works to the equipped playground.**