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## COUNCIL

**Wednesday 11 May 2016**

**11 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES IN 2015/16 (Pages 3 - 8)**

The final version of Appendix 1 is attached.

*Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from*  
<http://cde.bromley.gov.uk/>

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**Reports from Councillors appointed to Outside bodies –  
Updated Appendix 1**

**Affinity Sutton Group London and East Regional Scrutiny Board (RSB)  
Cllr Chris Pierce -**

1. The Board is one of a number of established Regional Scrutiny Boards comprising representatives from Affinity Sutton, tenants and local authorities.

2. The Board continues to receive comments from Resident Area Panels (RAPs) which enable tenants in smaller areas within the region to voice their opinions. The London and East Regional Residents Engagement Day was held in London on 13th November. Unfortunately I had to apologise at short notice due to family illness.

3. I have attended all four Board meetings held in London on;

24th June 2015  
23rd September 2015  
9th December 2015  
16th March 2016

4. During the year scrutiny was carried out on the following topics and action plans were developed and progressed to deal with the findings;

- Repairs to vulnerable residents
- Planned investment (or works)

5. Scrutiny topics for next year have been selected as;

- Anti-social behaviour
- Repairs and the management of subcontractors as it relates to appointments

6. Board members visited the Affinity Sutton Contact Centre in Bromley on 17th November 2015.

7. During the year Board members were asked to undertake an online training scrutiny course. I completed this on 17th February 2016.

8. The new Affinity Sutton online website and residents' portal continues to be developed. This includes 'local pages' to allow residents to search for a wealth of information relating to their own area.

9. During 2015 Affinity Sutton Repairs (ASR) took over maintenance and repairs for the 18,000 properties in London and Kent, effectively bringing the service back 'in house' at the expiry of the Osborne contract.

10. During the next year it is proposed that Affinity Sutton Group and Circle Housing Group merge into a single organisation. A Full Shadow Board and Designate Executive Team have been announced as part of these proposals.

### **Design and Heritage Champion Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP -**

I have attended one day conferences organised by Urban Design London. These have included the following:

- 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 - *Networking meeting on the Green Belt*
- 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015- *Urban Design Skills, understanding the structure of place*
- 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 - *Site visit to Battersea area to see new Thameside developments*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 – *Heritage Design Skills*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 – *Housing site visit in East End*
- 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 – *Councillors' Briefing*
- 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – *Suburbs*
- 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – *Site visit to Olympic legacy buildings*
- 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – *Underground Design*
- 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 *The history of London Suburbs*
- 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 *Place Conference University College London*
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 *What has TfL done for design?*

Membership of this organisation, shared between Planning and Environment is thoroughly recommended. The courses, organised by UDL, are free to Bromley members and officers and provides great opportunities for professional development.

At the launch of Historic England on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2015, I represented the Council. This organisation replaces English Heritage with a new remit and has responsibility for advice on the listing and promotion of the importance of the historic environment. The care of historic buildings has been transferred to a new charity: *The English Heritage Trust*.

I have attended a number of meetings of the Bromley Local History Society and their walks around historic parts of the Borough.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September I opened the public open day at Scadbury Moated Manor and toured the site as the guest of the Orpington and District Archaeological Society.

Community Trust seeking to manage the Orpington Priory invited me to their presentation on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 and I was impressed with the plans which they have drawn up.

I attended or sent representations to a number of planning committees meetings in support of buildings of architectural or historical importance. I was delighted that the gatehouse to Sundridge Manor was saved from demolition but understand why it was not possible to prevent the demolition of 107 Plaistow Lane.

I supported plans for the improvement and extension of the restaurant in Crystal Palace Park and welcome plans for the wider park. Two aspects of the park are identified as being at risk on the Historic England Register namely the Upper and Lower Terraces and the pedestrian footway under Crystal Pace Parade which linked the exhibition site to the then High Level railway station.

I draw attention to the other buildings and sites on the At Risk register in Bromley:

- 20-22 Hamlet Road, Crystal Palace
- Downe Court Manor
- Buildings 1-5 West Camp (Airman's Barracks) Biggin Hill
- Romano-British masonry building and Saxon cemetery at Fordcroft Orpington
- Iron Age Settlement and Roman Villa, Warbank, Keston.

## **2016-17**

July 1<sup>st</sup> will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme in which the British Army suffered its worst ever day for deaths and wounded. The Western Front Association is seeking to commemorate the occasion with short ceremonies at 7.30am, including the blowing of the whistle at local war memorials to mark the exact time at which British troops went over the top. I hope to organise with the Mayor's office for volunteers to be at as many of the memorials as possible throughout the Borough.

The 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire which destroyed the Crystal Palace. The Council held an exhibition and published a booklet on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it is hoped that the event may be marked in a similar way this year.

## **Mytime Active Board**

**Cllrs Nicholas Bennett JP & Tim Stevens JP -**

There have been two changes to the Executive Leadership Team during 2015/2016, with Mike Evans (Health Director) being replaced by Phil Veasey in the role of Business Development and Marketing Director, and Matthew Roberts (Operations Director) whose post is being advertised. The Board members have been involved in these changes and appointing the new Directors.

Mytime Active has three Sub Committees these are;

- Finance and Investment
- Operations and Quality of which Cllr Stevens is now Chairman
- Audit, Risk and Compliance on which Cllr Bennett serves

There have been two retirements from the Board this year and an interview process is underway to fill these vacancies. The aim is to strengthen the collective skills in the area of IT, digital and Public Health. Therefore, the board is currently nine strong and will shortly return to eleven with the new appointments due shortly.

Both Cllr Stevens and Bennett have undergone health and safety training this year as part of their roles on the Board.

Mytime Active has continued to respond to the Council's request to renegotiate the contract and lease on the leisure sites. Talks were set aside in the spring of 2016, however the door is very much open to discussing the future. The Board of Mytime Active has been kept up to date by the Chief Executive and is positively supportive of the discussions to renegotiate.

In accordance with the contract, Mytime Active submitted plans to invest in the facilities, using the investment fund monies set aside by The Council for the purpose. These were reviewed and the accumulated funds up to March 2016 were approved by The Council in November 2015. The plans for the investment in 2016/17 were approved in April 2016, which allows Mytime Active to ensure that the funds can be invested by March 2017, having fulfilled all the necessary procurement processes. This is all very positive.

A full report on the activities of Mytime Active, including the social impact, was presented to The Council in Autumn 2015 and favourably received. The new Mytime Active strategy is placing increased focus on the positive social impact of the services, as well as linking up the leisure, culture, golf and health services available to people living and working in the Borough.

The legal role of a trustee requires us to put the interest of the trust first and we have refrained from taking part in discussions with The Council where there could be a conflict of interest so that we can take a full part in the strategy of the Trust Board.

### **Bromley Youth Music Trust Board of Directors** **Cllr Kate Lymer -**

Each year BYMT are audited by the Arts Council England on the quality and breadth of their music education offer. This supports their reapplication for Hub funding which is significant. In January this year the Arts Council England's Audit revealed that they were very happy with what BYMT are doing, and have now placed them in their lowest possible risk category - "minor risk". The report makes positive reading, especially as you consider that just two years ago BYMT were considered "medium risk". This fell to "low risk" last year, and now "minor risk". "Minor risk" reflects that they are confident in BYMT's management structure, delivery plans, financial plans underpinning their activities, and in their overall delivery.

There has been a focus in 2015/2016 on increased traded income from schools in response to the change in their funding relationship with Bromley Council. This represents a significant change for schools, particularly around whole class ensemble teaching, but schools have responded positively, and school provision still remains at an affordable level. BYMT continues to research and secure funding sources, supported by the new Business Development Manager. A strong relationship with the Music for All Charitable Trust has supported the new rock and pop programme, and they have also received awards from Grants for the Arts and the Mayor's Music Fund.

## **Community Links Bromley Cllrs Peter Fortune and Ellie Harmer -**

This year Councillors Ellie Harmer and Peter Fortune have been delighted to attend a number of meetings and events with Community Links Bromley.

Community Links Bromley is an organisation which supports, promotes and links together the excellent volunteer network across the Borough. It provides signposting and guidance around numerous vital functions including governance, finance and fundraising. It also supports capacity building within organisations and development guidance for new projects. Alongside this, they are able to provide bespoke, chargeable, training and development programmes and further forms of support for a myriad of causes.

As Trustees, Councillors Harmer and Fortune have provided a link to the Council and offered guidance as to how CLB can adapt to meet a rapidly changing political and financial landscape. They have been delighted to help, in whatever way they can, with the development of exciting new local projects and act as CLB ambassadors to the local community groups that they engage with as ward and Borough councillors.

Some of the projects in which they have been involved this year include supporting Community Links Bromley in taking an active role in finding a long term solution for the Borough's Community Managed Library programme. CLB have lead on local projects by assisting with, among other initiatives; 'Big Local Mottingham', a lottery investment of £1Million over ten years which aims to leave a lasting legacy in the community; The Cray Valley Village Hall Trust which, with CLB involvement and community leadership has turned around a failing trust; and will soon be hosting the very popular Volunteer Awards where those who stand out are given the recognition they deserve.

As the Local Authority faces more difficult financial decisions and the delivery of local services continues to change we are very fortunate to have an organisation like Community Links Bromley to drive community engagement in the Borough. We thank their leadership, under Colin Maclean, the Board of Trustees and, more than anything, the wonderful residents who give up their time to support the numerous volunteering groups that CLB facilitate.

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