

**LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**CONCESSIONS TASK AND FINISH GROUP**  
**THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2021 AT 1000 HOURS**

Present: Councillors P Snelling  
S Jones – in the Chair  
T Morris  
V Harvey – left at 1117 hours  
F Kharawala

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)  
S Sandiford (Head of Democratic & Central Services)  
I Haynes (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services)  
J Gelder (Community Action Bedfordshire) – part meeting  
G Croxford (Community Action Bedfordshire) – part meeting  
A Stewart (Adventure Cycle Hire) – part meeting

Members of the Public: 0

**08/C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence had been received.

**09/C DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

Councillor F Kharawala declared a personal interest in matters relating to Parson's Close Recreation Ground in terms of any potential impact on Carnival or Picnic in the Park, as a member of the Carnival Committee and organiser of Picnic in the Park.

**10/C QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**11/C MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Task and Finish Group received the draft minutes of the Concessions Task & Finish Group meeting held on 17 December 2020.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Concessions Task and Finish Group meeting held on 17 December 2020 be approved as a correct record, to be signed at a later date when safe to do so.

**12/C EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. The public and press to withdraw from the meeting during consideration of detailed discussion regarding: **Concessions**.

**13/C CONCESSIONS**

(a) A Stewart of Adventure Cycle Hire gave a brief presentation of a proposal to trial the provision of a small-scale family cycle hire facility in Parson's Close Recreation Ground. Users could hire a one, two or four-seater bike for a fun experience within the park grounds. This facility was currently in successful operation at Willen Lake, Milton Keynes but it was recognised that the proposed scheme would be on a much smaller scale.

**RESOLVED to support an informal trial of an adventure bike hire facility in Parson's Close Recreation Ground for the summer season 2021.**

Mr Stewart was thanked for attending the meeting.

(b) J Gelder and G Croxford of Community Action Bedfordshire gave a verbal update in respect of the concessions for ice-cream and food & beverages in Parson's Close Recreation Ground. Sales over the winter period had been better than expected, reflecting the fact that people could only use outdoor facilities during much of this period due to the Covid-19 local and national restrictions. The Café in the Park had been consistently busy with people out for their daily exercise and feedback from customers had been positive. It was noted that outdoor spaces had been more important than ever throughout the pandemic and that the Café in the Park provided a central place for people to interact and which felt safe to them.

The first two years of the five-year concession had now been completed. Financial predictions had now been developed based on the experience of the first two years of operation, albeit the continuing impact of the pandemic was unknown and the success of the facility continued to be largely weather dependant. Options for the way forward were discussed.

J Gelder and G Croxford were thanked for attending the meeting and left at 1054 hours.

The Task and Finish Group agreed that it needed to see the business plan for the concessions in order to make any recommendations back to committee/Council. It was requested that a subsequent meeting be arranged as soon as possible and that Community Action Bedfordshire provide a copy of its business plan for that meeting.

The meeting closed at 1127 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2021.

Chair

TBC