

Agenda Item No: 9.6

Report Title: Ward Issues Raised by Councillors at Council

Report To: Cabinet **Date:** 3 January 2018

Cabinet Members: Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council and Councillor Maskell, Cabinet Member for Housing.

Ward(s) Affected: Ouse Valley and Ringmer; Lewes Bridge.

Report By: Catherine Knight, Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Contact Officer(s)-

Name(s): Ben Bix
Post Title(s): Committee Services Lead
E-mail(s): ben.bix@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
Tel No(s): 01323 415702

Purpose of Report:

To respond to ward issues raised by councillors at meetings of the Council.

Officers Recommendation(s):

To note and agree the officer action detailed in the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that appropriate follow up action is taken.

Information

- 1 The following Ward issues were raised at the Council meeting on 6 December 2017:

Councillor/Ward	Ward Issue Concerning	
Councillor Turner - Ouse Valley and Ringmer	<p>I have 3 elderly residents of Beddingham Gardens Glynde, that are council tenants. They live at the top of a steep bank and are in desperate need of a handrail in order to leave their homes safely.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u></p> <p>Can the council supply and fit a handrail in the very near future before one or all of these residents falls and seriously injures themselves.</p>	DSD

<u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u>	
We have instructed one of our surveyors to have this issue inspected and consider installing an appropriate remedy.	

Councillor Elliott - Lewes Bridge	<p>Malling Tenants and Residents Association run the Malling Food Bank. This is run by a small group of hard working and dedicated volunteers. Numbers using the food bank in the last year have risen from around 6 a week 12 months ago, reaching more than 40 families now being referred weekly from GPs, health visitors, social workers, teachers and so on.</p> <p>The Food Bank has outgrown the facilities at Malling Community Centre, having had to use a local church, before now using the Phoenix Centre. The food bank is funded by local donations of both food and money from residents and businesses alike.</p> <p>Enough storage space is needed to be able to continue to accept donations, and feed people in their times of hardship. I have enquired with Officers already about the use of a lock-up garage on the Malling estate.</p> <p>There are, I believe, several that could be made available. The obstacles are two-fold – one that the garages should only be used for parking. Only a fraction are being used for this purpose, so I am hopeful that this can be overcome. The second is concerns around food being stored in them for hygiene reasons. I can assure the council that the food bank has funds available to buy pest proof, water proof storage and that only non-perishable items would be stored here.</p> <p>In the longer term we look to provide permanent facilities on completion of the long awaited refurbishment of Malling Community Centre by Lewes Town Council, expected to be next year.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u></p> <p>That the Council allow the food bank use one of the garages on the Malling estate.</p>	DSD
--	--	-----

<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u></p> <p>Fairshare is the UK's largest charity fighting hunger and food waste. If they are advising that a garage is unsuitable for food storage, we would want to continue working with Malling Food Bank to explore other options.</p>	
<p>Councillor Carter – Lewes Bridge</p>	<p>Following a petition of more than 1500 signatures presented last year, Full Council and subsequently Scrutiny and Cabinet agreed that we should look at the social value as well as the financial value of bids to use the historic Turkish baths in Friars Walk Lewes. Following this decision, two community arts organisations made a bid for use of the building in August, however, four months later, these organisations are still awaiting a decision, and this is actually putting them in a tricky position as they have deadlines approaching for funding applications. Bridge Ward residents have written to me, they are very concerned about the future of this building so I hope that for the residents and for the arts organisations, that a decision, and the decision making process can be revealed promptly.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u></p> <p>That the decision be taken and notified to the bidders</p>
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Regeneration and Planning):</u></p> <p>At their June meeting, Cabinet agreed a methodology for the selection of a tenant for Turkish Baths around five key elements – site use, community benefit, commencement, deliverability and indicative financial offer. There was no weighting to be applied and a maximum of 20 points available within each element.</p> <p>The property was marketed for a six week period over the summer and expressions of interest (EoI) invited. Each proposer completed the same EoI form which was developed to enable a fair assessment of strengths and weaknesses in each bid. An assessment panel made up of officers with particular specialisms in each of the areas reviewed the EoIs and undertook some initial scoring. Officers approached each proposer again with some clarifying questions on sections of their EoI that were least strong and offered meetings before scores were moderated and finalised.</p> <p>Strategic Property Board considered the matter at their meeting on 13 November and were informed by officers that there was a late planning issue with regards to disabled access to the property. As a result of this, officers contacted all proposers again to ensure that they were still interested in the building before providing Strategic Property Board with final recommendations</p>	<p>DRP</p>

on the tenant that had scored the most through the assessment process.

The Council has been keen to ensure all proposers had ample chance to express an interest in the property through the marketing period and were given the opportunity to provide the strongest submissions they could given that the applicants came from a variety of backgrounds and had differing capacity in writing proposals. Officers ensured that proposers were regularly emailed with updates throughout the process and all proposers have now been informed of the success or otherwise of their bid.

As well as Turkish Baths, the Council has also been marketing Thebes Annexe and all proposers unsuccessful for Turkish Baths have been reminded that this property is still available should they be interested.

The Council will announce who the winning tenant is once lease negotiations are complete.

Financial Appraisal

2 None arising from this Report.

Legal Implications

3 None arising from this Report.

Risk Management Implications

4 I have not completed the Risk Management Checklist as there is no need to undertake a risk assessment.

Equality Screening

5 I have not completed the Equality Analysis checklist as this report is free from the requirement to do so.

Background Papers

6 None

Appendices

7 None