

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 22 MAY 2018  
title: HENTHORN ROAD YOUTH SHELTER  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 This report follows up one which members of this Committee considered in January 2018, where it was recommended that further information be brought back in six months to Committee for a decision.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley, encompassing our objective to encourage economic development throughout the borough, with a specific emphasis on tourism.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The previous report was brought to Committee because of problems associated with the youth shelter on Henthorn Road. At that stage, members asked that consultation take place with the County Council regarding any youth work which could be undertaken with regard to activity at the site.

2.2 The anti-social behaviour issues which have arisen with the site have been reported as substance misuse, graffiti, and littering.

2.3 The original purpose of the shelter was to act as a gathering place, where youth workers could interact with young people as a group, and provide alternative or diversionary activities in which they could be engaged.

## 3 THE CURRENT POSITION

3.1 Discussions have taken place with LCC who, over a period of months, monitored use of the shelter. Their feedback is attached, appendix A.

3.2 There is some youth work at the Zone in Clitheroe. However, this does not include outreach work at the shelter. (Which is why it was constructed originally).

## 4. ISSUES

4.1 The Youth Shelter was recommended for removal by the Ribble Valley Children Young Peoples sub group in September 2015, when the County stated they had no budget provision to run it. Clitheroe Youth Forum, run by Mel Diack, had no concerns about removal at that time, and the local community was in favour, also. However, LCC, who owns the shelter, failed to remove it then, and has not indicated it will happen now.

4.2 Removal will still most likely lead to the range of age groups that use the shelter, finding an alternative location in the area. The play area on Henthorn Park is an area where damage has already occurred following misuse. Plus, there are benches in the park which are popular with all ages during throughout the year. The issue of anti-social behaviour and litter will not simply stop after the removal of the shelter.

## 5. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Technical, Environmental and Legal – The cost of removal will, unless we can get LCC to contribute, have to be borne by this Council. There is no specific budget for such work, so it would need to be found from within existing resources. The level of cleaning which the area receives will be reduced if removal is approved, though that small amount of time will be used elsewhere in the town.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – It may be felt that, in taking away the shelter, Ribble Valley BC, though not the owner, has responded to the wishes of local people. Users of it may take an alternative view, in that a facility they enjoyed has been removed and now they have to find another place to gather, be that for positive or negative activity.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

## 6 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

Approves removal of the shelter.

MARK BEVERIDGE  
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None

For further information, please contact Mark Beveridge 01200 414479

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Appendix A

Time	Date	Was the shelter being used	By whom, young people up to 19, 19-25, 25 or above	What were they doing was there drinking or drugs?
3.10pm	26/01/2018	Yes	3 School kids 13-16	On way home 3 males chilling
10.45am	06/02/18	Yes	Over 25, 3 males	Drinking, smoking not sure what though, didn't look like they were doing wrong
19.15pm	14/02/2018	No	N/A	N/A
5.15pm	14/02/2018	No	N/A	N/A
15:00pm	15/02/2018	Negative	Not applicable on this occasion	Not applicable during the timeframe of this particular observation.
5.00pm	15/02/2018	No	I could not see anyone in the shelter	After visit and on way home, still no one in the shelter
4.00pm	16/02/18	Yes	3-5 young people, 3 boys 2 girls 11-13	Sat in laughing having fun with each other, looked like on way home from school
12:50pm	22/02/18	YES	2 post school age males 16-19 and 1 female 16-19, 1 dog	Sat in the shelter, no sign of alcohol or drug use
5.45pm	22/02/18	No	N/A	N/A
17:15pm	23/02/18	YES	Group of 8 school aged children 15/16 yr olds,	1 person smoking, they were just hanging around not being a nuisance, I observed them for approx. 10 mins
15:00pm	15/03/2018	Negative	Not applicable on this occasion	Not applicable during the timeframe of this particular observation.
2.30pm	22/03/18	No	N/A	N/A