

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 7

meeting date: 12 MARCH 2019
title: HENTHORN ROAD YOUTH SHELTER
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 This report follows up two which members of this Committee previously considered in 2018 at the January and May meetings.

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 reports were brought to Committee because of problems associated with the youth shelter on Henthorn Road. At the Community Meeting on 22nd May, 2018 the officer recommendation was for removal of the shelter, Committee agreed to retain it (minute 13, 22/05/18).

2.2 Since that time the issues with the shelter have not gone away and despite a regular cleaning regime to remove litter, complaints have still been received about the shelter being retained and the activities that occur there.

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 for them to be engaged in. However there is no outreach work at this site by LCC.

3 THE CURRENT POSITION

3.1 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).

3.2 Discussions have taken place with LCC, however no additional youth resources will be deployed at the site.

4. ISSUES

4.1 The Youth Shelter was recommended for removal in September 2015 by the Ribble Valley Children Young Peoples sub group, where the County stated they had no budget to run provision from it. Clitheroe Youth Forum, run by Mel Diack had no concerns about removal at that time and the local community were in favour also. However LCC, who own the shelter failed to remove it then and have 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, the former is a police matter to attend to, and the latter will be a Borough Council responsibility as it is now. However the area is outside of the town centre area, a

zone 1, so would not normally receive the same litter inspections as it has done in the recent past due to the issues with the shelter. This has seen it receive visits on a zone 1 frequency to address the litter issues.

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 and 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, even though not the owner, have 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

Committee considers the report decides what is to happen to the shelter.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS – Community Reports 9th, January 2018 and 22nd May 2018.

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 4479.