

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD
WAS HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 6PM**

Subject to approval

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Batty) (P), (Councillor Hook (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Bateman (P), Burgess (P), Earle (P), Mrs Hook, Mrs Huggins (P), Hylands (P) Mrs Jones (P), Miss Kelly (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy, Ronayne (P), Scard (P), Mrs Wright, Wright (P)

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Order 2.3.5, Councillors Mrs Furlong, Mrs Batty and Mrs Cully had been nominated to replace Councillors Murphy, Mrs Hook and Mrs Wright respectively for this meeting.

7. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Hook, Mrs Wright and Murphy.

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD HELD ON 8 MARCH 2017 AND 18 MAY 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the Community Board held on 8 March 2017 and 18 May 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct record.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Cully, Miss Kelly and Scard declared that their partners were allotment holders.

10. DEPUTATIONS

Two deputation requests had been received on Item 6 of the agenda.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

12. TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Streetscene seeking Board approval for the utilisation of funds from the capital receipt for Camden Allotments for the treatment of Japanese knotweed.

Mr Broom was invited to address the Board.

Mr Broom advised that he was the owner of 1 Olave Close, adjacent to the Manor Way site, and that he had prepared a report with a detailed proposal of a potential alternative to those presented in the report of the Head of Streetscene.

Mr Broom advised the Board that the knotweed on Manor Way had spread to his garden, he advised that the proposal was to full excavate the Manor Way

site, but that his land was only being treated by herbicide. Mr Broom felt that the report focused on a Gosport Borough Council perspective and not that of his property at 1 Olave Close.

Mr Broom advised that under civil law permanent removal action for both sites should be taken and that the proposals in the report should therefore be rejected. Mr Broom advised that the knotweed impeded his enjoyment of his property and garden.

Mr Broom advised the Board that he had prepared a document with two proposals, Members of the Board were given time to read the document.

Mr Broom advised that he was prepared to share the cost of the treatment to eradicate the knotweed on both Manor Way (identified as JK1) and his property (identified as JK2) if provision was made to modify the boundary.

Mr Broom advised that if Gosport Borough Council were to choose option two of his report, they would not address the accrued liability and would have additional costs of removing fences and trees and reinstating the fence.

Mr Broom requested that the Board give consideration to his proposals.

Mr More was invited to address the Board. He advised that he was the Chair of the Gosport Allotment Association and that he had previously addressed the Community Board with regard to Allotments.

Mr More advised that the proposal was that Council were to spend £64000 on the killing of weeds and was disappointed that the recently reconvened Allotment Stakeholders Group had not been consulted on the proposal.

Mr More advised that the money from the sale of Camden Allotments was restricted for the specific use for the improvement of Allotment sites and that it had not yet been confirmed that Manor Way site was to be used as allotments.

Mr More advised that there were only 19 people currently on the waiting list for allotments at Lee-on-the-Solent and that this would only take a fraction of the site, Mr More advised that previously there had been a large waiting list for sites in Lee-on-the-Solent.

Mr More advised the Board that he had no objection to the removal of knotweed but reiterated his concern at the proposed use of capital funding and disappointment that the Allotment Stakeholders Group had not been consulted.

Mr More advised that the Allotment Stakeholders Group were meeting the following evening and that the provision of Lee Allotment sites was on the work programme for the group in December.

In answer to a Members question, the Board were advised that the Allotment Stakeholders Group was an advisory group and that the Community Board were being requested to consider and approve the utilisation of funds to undertake the work to remove the knotweed.

Members were advised that there was still a demand for allotments in the Borough and that some people were prepared to travel to alternative sites. Members were advised that the total waiting list for allotments was over 240 in

the Borough and that the Lee-on-the-Solent waiting list had been closed for a number of years.

In answer to a Members question, the Board were advised that the capital funding from the sale of land at Camden allotments had paid for a number of improvements to various allotment sites over the years and that if plot holders remained vigilant it was hoped that the knotweed would not return. Members were also advised that other sites identified as having knotweed were the responsibility of Hampshire County Council and that any knotweed on housing land could be treated using funds from the Housing Revenue Account.

A Member recognised the work undertaken by the Stakeholders Group and thanked Mr Broom for his proposal. Members also questioned whether residents on the Allotment waiting list for other sites would be prepared to move.

In answer to a Members question, the Board were advised that under civil law the Council were obliged to address the nuisance caused by knotweed and that the Council had sought professional advice with regard to the removal of the knotweed.

Members were advised that the roots of the knotweed were located in the area of JK1 and not JK2, hence the proposals for different treatment methods. The area identified JK1 would be dug and the roots removed at a depth where the Rhizomes would be removed without being broken up, whereas the treatment for the area identified as JK2 did not require such aggressive treatment and the resulting damage to the land. The quote for the work also included the removal of the waste following the work.

A Member reiterated the desire to see funding provided for Allotment improvements and commended the Stakeholders Group on their work to date and their disappointment that the Group had not been consulted on the proposals.

RESOLVED: That the utilisation of funds from the capital receipt for Camden Allotments for the treatment of Japanese Knotweed at Camden Allotments and the recently acquired community space in Manor Way, Lee-on-the-Solent be approved.

13. IMPLEMENTATION OF A GREEN WASTE CLUB

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Streetscene advising the Community Board of a proposal to introduce a new method of collection of green waste from households, to be managed by Urbaser who provide the waste collection service on behalf of the Council ("Urbaser").

Members welcomed that the scheme would benefit residents but expressed concern that some properties would not be able to accommodate an additional bin at their properties. Members felt this could be particularly problematic for those with smaller gardens.

The Board were advised that the proposal was for green bags to cease to be used at in February 2018 and were advised that it would be possible to share

the bins across a number of properties.

The Board acknowledged that the present scheme was unsustainable as the existing bags were not biodegradable and the collection process for green bags could not be made any more efficient and that the cost to collect green bags was unacceptable.

Members acknowledged that a brown bin collection scheme for green waste was already in place and successful in other local authorities.

Members requested that investigations be made in to the possibility of payment in instalments to allow the cost of the bin to be spread over the year and it was agreed that investigations would be made.

Members were advised that the scheme would be advertised in Coastline.

Members welcomed that the proposal would increase the recycling rates for the Borough and hoped that other methods of recycling other material could also be investigated. Members also recognised that it would be much more efficient. Members also requested that work be undertaken to ensure the scheme was accessible to as many people as possible.

RESOLVED: That the implementation of a green waste club from February 2018, to be operated by Urbaser, for the residents of Gosport be approved.

14. ALLOTMENT STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members welcomed the commitment to the Stakeholders Group and reiterated that the aim was to facilitate greater understanding of the needs of the allotment holders.

RESOLVED: That the updated terms of reference for the Allotment Stakeholders Group be approved.

There was no other business

The meeting concluded at 19.08

CHAIRMAN