

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**2nd February, 2005**

Members Present:-
 Councillor Clifford
 Councillor Mrs. Johnson
 Councillor Mutton
 Councillor Patton
 Councillor Ridge
 Councillor Sawdon (Chair)

Other Scrutiny Member
 Present:- Councillor M. Noonan

Employees Present:-
 D. Cass (City Development Directorate)
 N. Clews (City Development Directorate)
 G. Demidowicz (City Development Directorate)
 C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
 A. Howitt (City Development Directorate)
 C. Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 12th January, 2005, were signed as true records.

96. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on the grounds that those items involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of that Act, in particular those paragraphs of Part 1 of that Schedule, as indicated below:-

Minute	Subject	Relevant Paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A
99	Best Value Review – Highways/ Highways Maintenance	12
102	Cabinet Items of Urgent Private Business – Coventry Air Park - Disposal of Development Site	7 & 9
103	Coombe Abbey Country Park - City Council Funding	7 & 9

97. **Developing Partnership Arrangements with Henley College to Develop Brandon Wood Farm as a Centre of Excellence**

As agreed at the meeting held on 26th January, 2005, this item of business had been deferred to a future meeting in order that the matter could be heard first by Scrutiny Board (2) at their meeting on 3rd February, 2005 (Minute 94/04 refers).

98. **Consideration of Call-ins**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services reported on the following call-in that had been received:-

Housing Strategy into Housing Reality

The report had been called-in by Councillors Nellist, Ms. McKay and Ms. Hunter.

The reason for the call-in was "To better understand how the recommendations quoted above, and the issues and inabilities reported in the report, will deliver the required level of affordable housing, and to do so with the involvement and support of communities in which development might occur."

The Committee considered the call-in in light of the approved criteria for determining whether call-ins were appropriate (Minute 1/02 refers).

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that the call-in be determined as not appropriate as it did not meet the agreed criteria because the report was a matter which had been considered and determined by a Scrutiny Board within the preceding six months; and that the three member indicated above be informed accordingly.
- (2) That the Constitution Working Group be requested to consider this element of the criteria for determining whether call-ins were appropriate.

99. **Review of the Recommendations of Best Value and Scrutiny Reviews – Best Value Review Highways/Highways Maintenance**

Further to Minute 62/04, the Committee considered two report of the Director of City Services, one in public and one in private, that provided an update for members on issues raised at the meeting on 1st December 2004.

Members questioned the employee on aspects of the report, in particular tree-spraying activities and tree examination.

RESOLVED that relevant employees be requested to attend a future meeting to discuss actions required as a result of tree-spraying activities including timescales and tree examination costs.

100. **Protection of the Menagerie**

The Committee considered a report of the Acting City Parks Officer, which outlined the situation with the Menagerie building on the Coombe Estate and in particular any

measures taken to protect the building and the ongoing work to dispose of the property. It was noted that there was no record of a request to install any protection to the building and the employees associated with the site at that time had since retired. Members were concerned that property in the ownership of the City Council should be kept in a good state of repair and pointed out that the City Council owed it to the electorate to get good value for money when property is sold. The employees advised that the site was visited and checked by wardens on a daily basis.

RESOLVED that the employees be requested to write to Committee members to outline those measures in place to protect the Menagerie building.

101. Buildings at Risk Register

The Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development which updated Members on action taken on the buildings on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register since this was last reported to Scrutiny Board (3) on 5th May, 2004.

The Committee noted that work to consolidate the ruins of Caludon Castle was completed in September 2004, there was now a possibility that this would be removed from the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register. The employees went on to outline that work which had taken place on the Spon End Terrace which had been a success. The Phase 3 works had now received funding and work was due to start in May 2005, the buildings would be removed from the Register as a result. The Medieval Basement in Bayley Lane had been included in the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Phase 2 Scheme which would include some remedial works to the basement. The condition of the medieval basement in Earl Street was being monitored following repair work by Severn Trent in 2003 to the mains supply above the structure, it was hoped this had solved the problems with water ingress. It was noted that the Chapel at the London Road Cemetery was in the main wind and weather proof, the problem in this case was the location as it meant it was difficult to find a new use for the building.

The Committee went on to consider the two buildings on the At Risk Register that were not within the City Council's ownership. It was noted that the City Council had carried out its duty with regards the medieval precinct wall to Charterhouse on the part of the wall in its ownership, the problem areas were those within the ownership of Bluecoat School and City College. Members suggested that it may be worth writing to the two organisations regarding the wall. With regard to the Old Grammar School, the historic part of the building was in good order. It was noted that Scrutiny Board (3) had looked at this building and requested the Director of City Development consider incorporating it into the Swanswell scheme. Members pointed out that no representative from the Holy Trinity had attended Swanswell meetings, they were concerned that the City Council should not be spending money on buildings it does not own and would not add value to the Swanswell Initiative. Members suggested a letter be sent by the Committee to Holy Trinity, enquiring about their long term plans for the building.

RESOLVED that employees be requested to write to City College/Bluecoat School regarding repairs to the medieval precinct wall to the Charterhouse and to Holy Trinity enquiring as to their long-term plans for the Old Grammar School.

102. Items of Urgent Business - Coventry Air Park – Disposal of Development Site

The Committee received the above-mentioned report which had been considered as an urgent item of both public and private business at the Cabinet meeting on

26th January, 2005. The reason for urgency was the need to give a commitment, sought by TUI, as to the availability of the relevant site as part of their proposed solution (to operate both the temporary terminal and the permanent facility) to be demonstrated to the Inspector at the planning inquiry, starting on 1st February, 2005, into the Enforcement Notice serving the temporary terminal at Coventry Airport.

RESOLVED that the Committee notes the above report and the reasons for urgency.

103. **Coombe Abbey Country Park – City Council's Funding**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development which provided a breakdown of income and expenditure across all Directorates at the Coombe Abbey Country Park. Members questioned the employees on aspects of the report, in particular the shop at the Country Park, the recent approval of funding to install CCTV on the site and capital loan repayment costs.

RESOLVED that employees be requested to submit a further report, including detailed information on those items identified above to the meeting on 23rd February, 2005.

104. **Outstanding Issues**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services that identified those issues on which further reports had been requested in order that members could monitor progress.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the report be noted and that Item 7 (Lord Mayor's report back from conference) be deleted.
- (2) That Item 5 (Coombe Abbey funding - follow-up) (Minute 102/04 above refers) be scheduled to 23rd February, 2005.