

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

6th November 2018

AGENDA ITEM 8.2.1 Public engagement and asset survey

1. Background

- 1.1 At your last meeting you resolved that the Clerk should seek at least 2 quotes for survey and building estimate work in relation to the works required to renovate both the VH and the Pavilion to maximise their potential for community development, and also that a working group of councillors (to involve all those councillors who could attend) be arranged to discuss how to progress a process of greater engagement with the Pickmere community.

2 Report

- 2.1 A meeting of the working group has been held. It concluded that communication with the local community should relate to the whole of the Parish Council's actions and activities and not be focussed simply on the issue of how to deal with the Council's built assets. The meeting proposed that the following initiatives should be suggested to the Council for acceptance and action:

- i. The Council should seek to include in future issues of Pickmere Press a regular summary of Council decisions and actions, so that the community is regularly updated on the work that the Council does and is given a context for its actions. Local organisations, especially those using Parish Council facilities could also be asked to make occasional contributions.
- ii. On perhaps 4 occasions each year, the Council should hold a 'surgery', for perhaps 30 minutes before the start of a formal Council meeting, where local residents can come and discuss with individual councillors any concerns or matters that they wish to raise or discuss. Such discussions would be informal and not form the basis for discussion at the Council meeting which followed, but the issues raised might be taken forward to future meetings of the Council.
- iii. Publicity be given, perhaps through its contributions to Pickmere Press, to the possibility that local residents could request a Councillor to visit them in their home, if they wished, to raise or discuss a particular matter.
- iv. Contact be made individually with each of the households who objected to the Council's outline planning application for the Turton Pavilion land, offering the possibility of a councillor visiting them individually to discuss the issues raised by the Council's proposal and the resident's concerns.
- v. That further thought be given to the role of the Council's Annual Parish Meeting in this context, and that a date be agreed for the next such meeting in 2019.

- 2.2 In relation to the proposed survey/estimate exercise for the Council's buildings, three companies have been asked to provide quotations for such work and these are now awaited.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Council consider the suggestions of the working group and note the situation with regard to the survey/estimate work, and make decisions on how to proceed.