

AGENDA ITEM 12.0

Appendix A – Consultation feedback received on Draft Strategic Plan by 13th January 2020

1.	<p>Response from Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association</p> <p>Thank you for giving the Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association the opportunity to comment on the Town Council's key planning documents. The Association requests that the Town Council considers the following issues in its deliberations:</p> <p>Twittens, paths and alleyways on Manor Park As the Town Council will be aware the vast majority of twittens, paths and alleyways serving Manor Park are in a very poor state of repair and in many cases quite dangerous.</p> <p>The Town Council will also be aware that the developer failed to construct the twittens, paths and alleyways to an adoptable standard and consequently their maintenance sits with nearby home owners as set out in the deeds to their property. Sometimes this will be the responsibility of a small number of home owners but often it runs into dozens.</p> <p>Whilst the Association has actively encouraged owners to take responsibility for the unsafe twittens that they are responsible for and has published a 'Twittens Toolkit' to guide owners towards a solution, it is clear that most are not willing or able to tackle the tasks they are confronted with. Not least of which is obtaining the agreement of all concerned that the work should be undertaken and then meeting the costs arising.</p> <p>The Association has looked into obtaining external funding to finance the repair work but has concluded that even if the funds could be sourced it would not have the resources to project manage the work.</p> <p>The current state of the twittens, paths and alleyways is such that it deters parents and carers to use them when dropping off or picking up their children at the schools in Downsview Crescent resulting in greater car usage which contributes to road safety concerns and is detrimental to the local environment.</p> <p>It is thought that a constructive and realistic way forward would be for the Town Council to take responsibility for repairing just two or three of the key routes across the estate that lead to the schools. This would address the car usage issues mentioned earlier and also provide an incentive to those responsible for the twittens that feed into these key routes.</p> <p>Uckfield Town Council Grants Budget The Association is grateful for the grant funding it has received both in the current year and in the past and fully supports that each application should be considered on its merits.</p> <p>However, when attending the Finance Sub Committee meetings, it has been noted that in recent years the value of the bids made have been substantially greater than the funds available. We believe that this gap will only widen in the future as many existing funding sources have reducing funds available whilst receiving increasing numbers of requests.</p> <p>As local grants are often the only port of call for micro voluntary organisations, groups and clubs the Association respectfully recommends that the Town Council considers increasing the grant budget.</p>
2.	<p>Response from Community and Regeneration Team at Wealden DC</p> <p>Thank you for sight of the Town Council's draft strategic plan. Wealden District Councils' Community and Regeneration team are keen to support your plans and vision for leisure and recreation in order to improve the health and wellbeing of Uckfield residents. As your plan develops please keep us informed as there may be an opportunity for closer working as our health and wellbeing priorities are closely aligned. For example, we are currently looking at ways we can assist Town and Parish Councils to improve their recreation grounds and open</p>

	<p>spaces, develop new physical and mental health initiatives and enhance our partnership working with community and voluntary organisations.</p> <p>We support and deliver a number of activities in the Uckfield area including the Freedom Leisure's' Active Communities programme, Summer Activity Day (in partnership with Active Uckfield) and Uckfield Dementia Forum. The revised Healthy Wealden website will also be a directory of Wealden's open spaces including those located in Uckfield. We hope the new website will be available in Spring 2020.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Response from a member of Active Uckfield</p> <p>My only concern would be the lack of a review of facilities for adults as that is where most Uckfield population growth will be and where no other body has even a nominal interest e.g. schools should offer some facilities. UTC is I know looking at West Park Pavilion, but without making it large enough for a badminton court or 3 Table Tennis Tables or 3 Short Court tennis courts it would be too small to really help with physical activity. We have seen with the MUGA that they are good but restricted by being a bit too small for occasional more formal use.</p> <p>It would also be a shame not to make use of WDC's recent review when that is released to see what Uckfield should in theory have and also wants. Space wise I would have thought such an expansion at West Park could work and traffic/parking wouldn't be too heavy whilst reducing driving into town giving another "regional" facility within Uckfield to go with Freedom Leisure, Luxford Centre, Ridgewood and Foresters.</p> <p>I believe a larger facility would work for Freedom Leisure and if Football, Rugby, Tennis or whatever were based there it can bring a synergy rather than being spread around town at small facilities. That would have to be on the edge of town and I'll admit I have no idea where that could occur. The field by Victoria that doesn't have Planning Permission would have value to the existing developers who I imagine are keeping access possible for economic reasons, but that is the only place within the town boundary where significant extra useable land is available. Something we should be considering and stating to keep Uckfield good for residents' future needs I believe.</p>