

COURT LEET PRESENTMENTS 2018

No.	LEAD OFFICER	LEAD MEMBER	PRESENTMENT
1.	Arthur Jeffery - On behalf of the City of Southampton Society		
	The Chapel of Our Lady of Grace		
	Leader of the Council – Cllr Hammond		<p>On behalf of the City of Southampton Society, I present the City Council for failing to acknowledge Our Lady of Grace Chapel as a site of Heritage status.</p> <p>Throughout Inland Homes' negotiations to build apartment blocks on the site, they only made verbal comments to honour the Chapel, and now they merely plan some Public Art items, items over which City Council officers have no control. This situation has been confirmed by Mr Darren Shorter, the City's Urban Design Manager.</p> <p>CoSS has, on several occasions, asked Inland Homes to acknowledge the Chapel's 12th century origins and its' status as a place of pilgrimage. Henry VIII himself came as a pilgrim in 1510. Wessex Archaeology have exhumed over 100 skeletons at the Chapel.</p> <p>The Chapel is a heritage site of substance and the City Council should act to record and publicise this important site.</p>
<p>RESPONSE: There are planning conditions and legal obligations placed on the planning permission for Chapel Riverside relating to the archaeology of the site. The developer is required to investigate, record and publish findings of their investigation and the remains of the Chapel will also be celebrated through public art on the site. To date, the developer has engaged with these requirements and the necessary work is ongoing.</p>			

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2.	Arthur Jeffery		
	Mayflower Park		
	Cabinet Member for Transport and Public Realm – Councillor Rayment	<p>Mayflower Park is the City Centre’s only park on the waterfront. For a maritime city, there are remarkably few places in Southampton where the public can access and enjoy the waterfront.</p> <p>Mayflower Park is largely closed to the public for more than two months a year, when it is covered with temporary exhibition halls for the Boat Show and Seawork. It is used for other events like the circus. Repeated covering of the grass and impact from the heavy vehicles used to erect and dismantle temporary structures has damaged the ground and natural drainage. The Park looks neglected and far less attractive and inviting than it should.</p> <p>The City Council had no doubt been cautious about spending on improvements when the Royal Pier Waterfront development project looked as though it would provide a new park. However, that project seems now to have collapsed.</p> <p>As the present Mayflower Park will be with us for the foreseeable future, I ask the City Council for a firm commitment to spend money on its restoration and to improve ground resilience to cope with impact of events.</p>	
<p>RESPONSE: The parks development team have been working on potential designs for Mayflower Park which would embrace it’s status as an events venue and also improve it as an amenity waterfront park. It is our intention to engage with stakeholders over the coming months to discuss the issues and explore the solutions. Once we have some firm options we can look at how any improvements could be funded.</p>			

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3.	Graham Linecar (on behalf of - Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society)		
Former Civil Service Sports Ground, Shirley			
	Leader of the Council – Cllr Hammond		<p>A map of Southampton shows how little open space there is in Shirley. Ideally, people should have access to a local park five minutes walk from home. City Council policy documents acknowledge that is not achieved in Shirley.</p> <p>The City Council compulsorily purchased the former Civil Service Sports Ground in 2010 for school playing fields. A Community Use Agreement gives restricted public access. That open space, and arrangements for public access and use, is now under threat; the City Council wants to use it as the site for a new secondary school. If open space is built on, City Council planning policy requires provision of an equal area of new green open-space.</p> <p>It is regrettable that public use of the only decent-sized green space in this densely built-up part of the City is under threat. My presentment asks that if the City Council does decide the Field should be the site for a new school, the design specification includes the requirement to provide a conveniently and safely located local park and children’s play area, open and accessible to the local community at all times.</p>
<p>RESPONSE: The former Civil Service Sports Ground in Shirley is, as suggested, defined as protected open space in the Council’s Development Plan. In particular, saved Policy CS21 of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy (amended 2015) states that ‘the Council will retain the quantity and improve the quality and accessibility of the city’s diverse and multi-functional open spaces...’. At the planning application stage this policy will be afforded significant weight in the decision making process, following further public consultation, and will be applied alongside others within the Plan, including those that seek to ensure that the City develops high quality education and related facilities which encourage community use (LDF Policy CS11 refers). The request for appropriate mitigation for any open space loss is noted.</p>			

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4.	Graham Linecar		
	Improving Highway Safety on the Avenue (A33)		
	Cabinet Member for Transport and Public Realm – Councillor Rayment		<p>I and many others, including University of Southampton students and staff from Avenue Campus, use the northbound and southbound bus-stops on The Avenue called 'Oakmount Avenue'. To get to or from the northbound stop means crossing The Avenue. There are often vehicles travelling faster than the 40mph limit, with overtaking in both directions.</p> <p>My presentment asks for it to be made easier and safer for pedestrians to cross close to the bus-stops. Central islands, and pedestrian refuge, were installed a few years ago to improve highway safety near the Westwood Road and Winn Road junctions. Similar installation near the Oakmount Avenue bus-stops and Highfield Road junction would restrict risky overtaking, improve highway safety and make it easier for pedestrians to cross The Avenue close to the bus-stops.</p>
<p>RESPONSE: The Avenue has been identified in the Southampton Cycle Strategy as one of the key active travel corridors, and is being looked at to improve facilities for people cycling and walking on this route between the city centre, University and Chandlers Ford. Where practical we can investigate new or improved pedestrian crossing facilities to aid pedestrians to safely cross the Avenue and Highfield Road to access the bus stops and the Common itself.</p>			

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5.	Kerry Sullivan - (on behalf of the Friends Of Field community group in Freemantle.)		
Former Civil Service Ground			
	Leader of the Council – Cllr Hammond		<p>Friends Of The Field Community Association (FOTF)</p> <p>FOTF is a local community association primarily made up of local residents together with local businesses, sports groups, community groups, councillors and St Marks School. Our purpose is to retain community access to the field for recreational and sporting purposes and to assist in maintaining it in a safe and secure condition.</p> <p>The ‘Field’ is an 8 acre green space behind St Mark’s School which is bordered by Malmesbury Road, Charlton Road and Suffolk Avenue.</p> <p>It originally formed part of the Atherley Estate and was established as a sports ground in the 1880’s, long before the surrounding houses were built.</p> <p>The Atherley family sold it to the Civil Service in 1927 with a covenant that it be used solely for sporting and recreational purposes, which it was for the next 70 years.</p> <p>In the late nineties, the Civil Service could no longer support the ground and sold it to Bovis Homes and there then followed years of the field being derelict and locked with issues such as arson, travellers and anti-social behaviour. FOTF campaigned to get the field back in use and it was eventually compulsory purchased from Bovis Homes by the council in 2012/2013.</p> <p>In the 5 years since the CPO, the council, school and community have worked together to achieve the safe open space that we have now.</p> <p>This green space is extremely important to the local area. The changing landscape of Shirley has meant a steady reduction of family homes with gardens and a sharp increase in HMO’s bedsits and flats meaning more and more people with little or no outdoor space.</p> <p>We feel it is important that local people have access to green space within walking distance, which is safe and secure away from roads and traffic.</p>

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			<p>We know that there is a proposal to build a new secondary school on this site and await the consultation details. We are concerned about what the future plans are for this site and worried that the local community may be squeezed out from this historic site.</p> <p>We therefore ask that the council fully engage with us and the community on future plans for development of the site and ensure there is community access for local people and sports groups ongoing.</p> <p>We also ask that there be a nominated officer contact during this time to ensure efficient and effective continuity.</p>
<p>RESPONSE: Southampton City Council agrees to engage with the community, as requested, on the future for development of the site and ensure</p>			
6.	<p>Jack Wilson (on behalf of See Southampton)</p>		
<p>Award for Southampton Council Member of Staff</p>			
	<p>Cabinet Member for Homes and Culture – Councillor Kaur</p>		<p>You have probably seen Jan, though you probably won't recognise his name. He's the street cleaner who does such a good job around the Bargate – We Tourist Guides are regular and reliable witnesses, to the dedication he brings to his work.</p> <p>A couple of weeks ago, Jan went one step further, rescuing the tail that had fallen off one of the Bargate Lions, and taking it to safety. We would ask that Jan be given some form of Civic recognition, for his care in rescuing this vital part of Southampton's icons, and his devotion to his job. It will show all those who care about the City are important.</p>
<p>RESPONSE: We have many dedicated members of staff both public and non-public facing. This being the case we established an employee award scheme whereby individuals and teams can be nominated annually. This is run each year through our communications team and promoted on our web pages. This would be the route for any recognition. It would not be appropriate to have a separate recognition scheme. Positive feedback is always appreciated and this will be conveyed to Jan in the usual way by his line manager.</p>			

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7.	Jack Wilson (on behalf of See Southampton)		
	D-Day, or American, Wall		
	Cabinet Member for Homes and Culture – Councillor Kaur		<p>I am sure many people here are aware of the D-Day Wall, sometimes called the American Wall, a short stretch of brick wall between the west walls of the old town and the Grand Harbour Hotel.</p> <p>This wall essential part of Southampton’s heritage as the graffiti on it was made by American Servicemen, before they left for the Normandy Invasions, many never to return. The wall is crumbling, and the names are disappearing rapidly; we only have a few years at most to rescue it.</p> <p>Many people have tried to find a way to preserve it in the past without success, but there is now a new initiative, led by an ex-serviceman Richard Myers, which has a real chance of success.</p> <p>We fully understand that no direct funding is available from the Council, we ask however for the Council’s support in applications for grant funding, and also in the proposal to re-issue the Council publication, Southampton and D-Day, to assist in fund raising.</p>
RESPONSE: Southampton City Council commits to supporting applications and fundraising.			
8.	Helen Wallbridge		
	The Hollybrook Memorial		
	Cabinet Member for Homes and Culture – Councillor Kaur		<p>Hidden away, inside the entrance to Hollybrook Cemetery is a largely unknown national First World War memorial. Yet, it is as significant as its famous counterparts, such as the Menin Gate at Ypres or Thiepval on the Somme.</p> <p>The Hollybrook Memorial, built and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, commemorates 1,930 personnel of the Commonwealth land and air forces who were lost or buried at sea during the First World War. The War Grave Commissions policy to commemorate the dead in the locality in which they fell was not possible for those lost at sea, so Southampton, operating as Number One Embarkation Point, was</p>

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			<p>chosen as the most appropriate location. For many, it was the last part of England they stood upon before embarking on troop ships. It was also the returning point for many of the wounded.</p> <p>Over the last four years the Maritime Archaeology Trust has researched the memorial and those named as part of the Heritage Lottery funded 'Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War' project. The research is presented in a booklet which is freely available in print and to view on our website, together with a video and 3D virtual tour of the memorial site: http://forgottenwrecks.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/overview/topics/hollybrook-war-memorial</p> <p>The research required many visits to the site over the four years and culminated in an open day. I was struck by how few local people even knew the memorial existed. I am here today to request signage be installed at the entrance to the cemetery to guide people to the memorial, and for anything else the council may be able to do to help spread knowledge of this memorial, particularly in the final months of the centenary commemorations. Many people are drawn to France to pay their respects, but as a City we should be proud of our role and be honoured to have a national First World War memorial here in the heart of the city. Lest we forget.</p>
<p>RESPONSE: Bereavement Services would be pleased to work with the Maritime Archaeology Trust to spread awareness of this memorial and will request that the Hollybrook Cemetery webpage is updated to provide information regarding the memorial and its location within the Cemetery along with a link to the booklet, video and 3D virtual tour as above. Signage guiding people to the memorial can be displayed in the Noticeboard situated at the entrance to the cemetery.</p>			
9.	Ricky Yardley		

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	Water frontage		
	Leader of the Council – Cllr Hammond		<p>It is my understanding that the City does not own one metre of deep water quayside. Yes we have several slipways and intertidal beach access.</p> <p>Now that Mayflower Park is in the melting pot again, may I suggest that any developer include public water frontage. This would become a berthing point for pleasure boats giving harbour cruises, drop off and pick up point for yachts and maybe crabbing opportunities for Children. The Shieldhall and other historic ships could lay alongside, creating a maritime atmosphere.</p> <p>Weymouth, Poole, Yarmouth and Cowes all have public quays where citizens can watch and enjoy coming and going. Crucially if a developer reclaims land from the seabed; can we be assured that ownership will pass from Crown Estates, who own the mud, to the City of Southampton. If the developer owns the quayside the City will lose control as at Ocean Village and Centenary Quay. This maybe our last opportunity to ensure that Mayflower Park remains a venue for the people to enjoy the views and watch the shipping.</p>
RESPONSE: Southampton City Council commits to providing public access to the waterfront, and to enter into conversation with Crown Estates regarding ownership of any reclaimed land			
10.	Marian Hubble		
	Status of our first citizen		
	Leader of the Council – Cllr Hammond		<p>Southampton is a great City. It has an illustrious past, rich in history, commerce and learning. It has associations with all parts of the globe: starting with the Romans settling here and now with cruise ships and research ships, its links are world wide.</p> <p>The container port is the second largest in the UK. Its Cruise traffic is greater than any other British port. Its massive contributions to the two world war efforts will never be forgotten.</p>

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			<p>Monarchs have been to Southampton; Refugees have been given solace and sanctuary here; We have the worlds oldest bowling green; Tim Berners Lee the developer of the internet is an alumnus of our university: and the list is endless.</p> <p>The City is worthy of National recognition.</p> <p>2022 marks 800 years of the mayoralty. I would like to put it to the jurors that we look to the future by raising the status of our principal citizen to that of Lord Mayor.</p>
<p>RESPONSE: It is not within the gift of the city to elevate the Mayor’s status to that of Lord Mayor. The award of conferring such status vests in the Queen under Royal Prerogative and is undertaken solely at the discretionary timing of the Queen. Historically awards have coincided with important dates or national events.</p> <p>The City has been invited to make submissions twice before, in 1991 and 2001, but was unsuccessful. If a further invitation is extended any potential submission will be initially considered by the Leader of the Council and the Mayor</p>			
11.	Marian Hubble		
	New Transport Interchange		
	Leader of the Council – Cllr Hammond		<p>Last year, on behalf of the City of Southampton Society, I made a Court Leet Presentment regarding the Toys-R-us site to be used as a transport interchange.</p> <p>The Southampton City Council response in November 2017 was that although the store had not then ceased trading “an affordable and sustainable transport hub would be a welcome addition to the city”.</p> <p>This Year, now that Toys-R-Us have ceased trading, the City of Southampton Society urges Southampton City Council to develop this plot as a transport interchange. The land is perfectly situated between the train station and the National Express bus station. It would also enable the programming of travel services to be properly integrated.</p>
<p>RESPONSE: We are awaiting proposals from developers.</p>			
12.	Lindsi Bluemel		

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No.	LEAD OFFICER	LEAD MEMBER	PRESENTMENT
	Tree Preservation Order		
	Cabinet Member for Transport and Public Realm – Councillor Rayment		<p>This presentment concerns the line of trees on the north side of Bitterne Railway Bridge: if traveling East out of the City on Bitterne Road Wes, the trees are just beyond the Northam Bridge, between the garage on the left and the Bullar Road / Athelstan Road crossroads.</p> <p>These trees are valuable to the local environment and include some beautiful ancient oaks They lie on the route of the Highways England A3024 scheme, which may involve works between Bursledon Roundabout and Six Dials. Myself and others are concerned that the scheme will involve the felling of these trees and we would like to see them protected by means of tree preservation orders.</p> <p>The Tree Officer has been approached. His first response was that the trees were not under threat and therefore he did not think preservation orders necessary. When the treat from the Highways England Scheme was pointed out, his response was that, in this case, he couldn't put preservation orders ion the trees because that would appear to be "obstructive" of the Highways England scheme!</p> <p>I and other local residents believe that preservation orders, while they might not prevent the Highways England scheme, might encourage this organisation to seriously consider alternatives to the current plan for Bitterne Railway Bridge which would not involve felling of the trees.</p> <p>As well as being of aesthetic importance, these trees are of incalculable value to the local environment and they form a vital role in absorbing the toxins in a location which is one of the most polluted in the whole City. Thy form a barrier between residents of Chafen Road and the traffic on Bitterne Road West, without which the residents would be exposed to greatly increased noise and air pollution.</p> <p>I hope the members of the Court Leet will support my request for preservation of these trees by means of tree preservation orders.</p>

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<p>RESPONSE: The Tree Officer was correct in his summation that the trees bordering this stretch of highway are not immediately under threat as no detailed scheme for this area has yet been provided. An early indication of the works here shows a cantilevered build out over the actual bridge (so no trees) and other than that it is proposed to stay within the existing highway boundary (all the trees are beyond the existing highways boundary). Also the Tree Officer was correct that any works carried out for the purposes of “road transport” under “Highways Operations” would be exempt under the Tree Preservation Order regulations 2012 and therefore would make any protection obsolete. Both Southampton City Council’s Transport Team and Highways England will be aware that trees are a material consideration in any developments and therefore it is not considered appropriate at this time to use public funded resource to place a Tree Preservation Order on these trees.</p>			