

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **18 July 2024**

Title: **Beesands Village Green Advisory Group**

Portfolio Area: **Leader of the Council**

Wards Affected: **Stokenham**

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive:

- 1. AGREES to revoke the Declaration dated 20 January 2011 constituting the Beesands Village Green Advisory Group and to wind up the Advisory Group with immediate effect, and**
- 2. DELEGATES authority to the Monitoring Officer to take the appropriate actions in order to achieve 1 above.**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Council owns the Beesands Village Green at Beesands, Stokenham, and for many years there has been a Beesands Village Green Advisory Group which was established as a means of consulting members of the Beesands community about the Village Green and to require the Advisory Group to monitor the use and maintenance of the Green and report back any issues to the District Council.
- 1.2 The Council now wishes to end the Declaration by which the Advisory Group was set up and wind up the Advisory Group in accordance with provision 12 of the Declaration as it is considered that the Advisory Group has now served its useful purpose.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council has for many years owned the Village Green at Beesands, Stokenham and has been in dialogue with the Beesands community about issues relating to the Village Green. In 2011, this arrangement was formalised in a Declaration by South Hams District Council which recorded the desire, at that time, to continue the Beesands Village Green Advisory Group and formally set out the membership of the Advisory Group and to set out the terms of reference for the Group.
- 2.2 The Declaration is set out in Appendix A attached to this report, and a plan of the Village Green is attached at Appendix B.

- 2.3 The purpose of the Advisory Group (as set out in paragraph 6 of the Declaration) is to:
- a) monitor the use, maintenance, and condition of the Village Green and to advise the Council of any issues through Stokenham Parish Council
 - b) consider and to respond to questions and issues on which the Council wishes to consult.
- 2.4 The Membership of the Advisory Group comprises the District Council's ward member who Chairs the Group, up to two members of Stokenham Parish Council and up to four members of the Beesands community.

3. Proposal, Option(s) Available and Risk Considerations

- 3.1 The Executive is requested to consider the proposal to end the agreement which constituted the Beesands Village Green Advisory Group and to wind up the Advisory Group.
- 3.2 It is considered that the Advisory Group in its current form, has served its purpose. The Council will continue to consult the community, where it is reasonably practicable to do so, on proposals relating to the Village Green. Going forward, it will be for residents to decide whether or not they wish to form a Village Association themselves.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 That the Executive considers the proposal to discontinue the Beesands Village Green Advisory Group and, if it agrees, delegates to the Monitoring Officer to take the appropriate steps to achieve this.

5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	<p>The Council owns the Village Green at Beesands in Stokenham. Village Green and is responsible for its maintenance in accordance with its status as a Village Green.</p> <p>Village Greens have developed under customary law as areas of land where local people indulged in lawful sports and pastimes.</p> <p>Village Greens are registered as such under the Commons Registration Act 1965 and are protected for recreational use and must remain open and cannot be built on.</p> <p>In 2011 the Council made a declaration to record the continuation of the group known as the <i>Beesands Village Green Advisory Group</i> and which set out the membership</p>

		<p>of the Group and its terms of reference of this group. The terms included monitoring the use, maintenance, and condition of the Village Green and to advise the Council (through Stokenham Parish Council) of issues it needs to be aware of. The Group also responds to and considers questions from the Council together with any issues that the Council wishes to consult them on.</p> <p>The Council may at any time revoke the provisions of the Declaration and wind up the Advisory Group.</p>
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	N	There are no direct financial implications to revoking the Declaration and winding up the Advisory Group. The Council will continue with its ownership responsibilities for the Village Green.
Risk	Y	See paragraph 3 of this Report
Supporting Council Plan	Y	Community Services and maintaining our open spaces to a high standard.
Consultation & Engagement Strategy	N	There has not been any consultation about disbanding the Advisory Group. The Declaration states that the Council may revoke the agreement at any time and wind up the Advisory Group. The power to make the decision to do this sits with the Council's Executive.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	N	No direct carbon/biodiversity impact arising from the recommendations.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	
Safeguarding	N	
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	
Other implications	N	

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A: Declaration from South Hams District Council establishing the Beesands Village Green Advisory Group dated 20 January 2011

Appendix B: Plan showing the Beesands Village Green

Background Papers:

None