

# Chesham Town Council

Bill Richards  
Town Clerk



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28<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Councillor

I hereby give notice of a meeting of the **RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE** to be held in the Council Chamber, The Town Hall, Chesham, on

**MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.30PM**

when the business set out below is proposed to be transacted:

## A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
4. To receive and consider the Minutes of:
  - Elgiva Board of Management meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
  - Allotments Group meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> August and AGM minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 (to follow).
  - Friends of Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.
6. Renovation of performance area, Lowndes Park.
7. Chesham Moor Gym & Swim Update.
8. Alternative Energy Sources Options for Open Air Pool
9. Christmas Lights Switch-On
10. Exclusion of Public and Press.
11. Security at Allotments sites.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Richards'.

Bill Richards  
Town Clerk



continued . . .



<b>Circulation</b>			
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>A.K. Bacon</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Mrs. C. Littley</b>
"	<b>E.L. Bamford</b>	"	<b>Mrs. C.M. Michael</b>
"	<b>M.Z. Bhatti</b>	"	<b>Mrs. M. Molesworth</b>
"	<b>Ms. J.E. Bramwell</b>	"	<b>Mrs A.M. Pirouet</b>
"	<b>Mrs. J.C. Fulford</b>	"	<b>Mrs. G. Walker</b>
"	<b>D. J. Lacey</b>		

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT  
AT 10.30AM ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 AT THE TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT**

Trevor Pilling (Chairman, presiding)  
Bernard Carey  
Howard Elson  
Yvonne Plested  
Stephen Cherry  
Patricia Lindsley  
Peter Fletcher  
Linda English (Minutes Secretary)

Officers: Moira Little – Assistant Manager, Elgiva

Apologies for absence were received from Bill Richards – Town Clerk, Mark Barnes - Manager, Elgiva, Anthony Ogden and Roy Abraham.

1. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were agreed as a true and correct record. Moira reported that the Summer Workshop had sold out.

2. **MANAGER'S THREE MONTHLY REPORT**

Moira reported on the following:

- The box office was busy again in response to the distribution of “What’s On”.
- The planned refurbishment took place over the summer and included:-
  - Dressing rooms re-decorated, chairs replaced
  - Backstage and auditorium carpets cleaned
  - Flat screen TV installed
  - New stage lanterns
  - Stage lighting and sound refurbished, new frame built for the sound desk
  - Front porch canopy cleaned
  - Bar cleaned, shutters repaired
- Outstanding items for refurbishment are:
  - Box office blinds, on order
  - New fire panel, expected to arrive soon
  - The possibility of blinds in the foyer the finance for which is subject to the insurance company approving the cost of the repairs to the toilets.
- All appraisals have been scheduled.
- The booking fee for credit and debit card sales is re-named the “Administration Charge” and from January 2010 it will also apply to cheque payments.
- Trevor was thanked for his help at the Fusion event. There was good feedback from security staff that there was no bad behaviour within the audience.
- Patricia commented that she had experienced slow service from the Cafe. Moira reported no adverse feedback from the public. Yvonne asked if the Cafe could be open on Sundays

when there was an event. Moira's response was that they did not want the Cafe to compete with the bar but she will discuss this request with Mark and Caroline.

- Sales for the Pantomime are down on sales at this time last year. There have been less schools showing interest which may be due to a number of changes of Head Teachers this year. Moira is not concerned at present and commented that generally sales are being made later in the present financial climate. Further ideas for publicity were suggested by the Board and discussed.

3. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Trevor circulated his spread sheets for the months of June, July and August.

Overall, income has increased and Trevor is confident that the targets will be met at the end of the year.

4. **PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL'S ELGIVA BUDGETS 2010/2011**

Trevor and Mark will meet with Steve Pearson on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009 to discuss these budgets. Trevor will report back to the Board after the meeting.

5. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Management was provisionally suggested 10.30am on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at the Town Hall.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Bernard asked if there were any contingency plans in place in case of serious sickness absence of the staff, for example 50% of Management and Technicians. Moira agreed to talk to Mark about doing a risk assessment. The Board suggested that the members could be trained as reserve managers or there could be plans made to share staff with other local theatres if necessary.

Bernard suggested that the World Cup matches which will take place in the afternoons and evenings between mid June and mid July 2010 could be shown at the theatre.

The meeting closed at 11:30am.

Minutes of 'The Friends of Moor Road Gym and Swim'  
Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009

Present: Nazma Khan, Danny Essex, Peter Ashby, Nicola Atuyana, Sue Hutcheson, Tina Michael, John Popple, John Dunn

Apologies: Moira Walker, Trevor Davies

Chair: DE (Agenda PA), Minutes: NK

<b>Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting:</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
<p>No issues have arisen from the previous minutes</p>	
<p><b>Manager's Report:</b> The gym has been doing very well and is continually busy; DE has asked staff to produce a usage table to shown number of visits per day (see attachment) to see which the busiest days of the week are. DE would also like to be able to include types of users on this chart. Personal training has been growing in popularity and is introducing new gym members and good marketing.</p> <p>Swimming, to combat the bad weather DE has introduced more inflatable sessions that have proved popular with children. There have only been a small number of reduced season tickets sold even though this year they have been well advertised. It has been noted that the CVSLA managed to sell more and it is unsure whether this is because they are reduced and not half price. PA suggests that we need not offer the reduced season tickets again as the low uptake did not make them justifiable. DE has noted that the over 60's and toddlers sessions have been very well attended now they have been merged (where previously these sessions were individually not viable due to low numbers.)</p> <p>Bucks Sport funding - originally DE was told that they would fund any pool based activity for over 16's. In reality though it has not been possible to get funding for projects in time to be able to introduce them this swimming season. DE has been told that there will be money available for next season. TM suggested obtaining their funding criteria to clarify what grant money could be applied for.</p> <p>DE gave to the friends the results of a CTC survey about the centre carried out as part of the service review (see attachment). PA stated that the survey wasn't very representative as the sample was mainly swimmers and there was an unequal male, female ration.</p> <p>Courts, generally the tennis court is doing well and increasing its usage with coaching and individuals. The multi court is less used and mostly for tennis overflow, although DE states he does have teams using the court. PA suggested a working party to look at</p>	<p>NA to call Bucks Sport</p> <p>DE,SH, TC look into targeted ads and</p>

usage figures for the courts so that more targeted advertising can be done. The courts are competitively priced to other centres in the area.  Classes continuing to be popular and DE to introduce new classes to meet demands.	marketing
<b>Finances:</b> PA gave the committee a summary of the financial situation from 2007 to the present (see attachment).	
<b>Advertising:</b> SH and TC to try more targeted advertising. TM suggested advertising in the examiner events section which would be free and could be altered weekly. TC provided DE with information about chalk boards that could be used outside the centre to promote new events and offers. DE also looking into a new large branded roadside sign for the centre, NA suggested incorporating the two.	TC and SH marketing  DE and NA signs and boards
<b>2012 Day</b> Well advertised but not very well attended. DE thinks we need to return to the original idea of gym based in house events rather than larger events with many organisations. Smaller events would be more cost affective and easier to manage.	
<b>Website:</b> Being continually updated. NA suggested we need to know how many hits the website gets and the sort of information that people are looking at. DE will inquire if this is possible. NA and JP will review the website. Email contact lists have also been compiled for the gym, NA suggested the need to create a unified gym and swim mailing list. DE export the gym list to NA to do this. NA will create a newsletter to update users about the centre and encourage attendance at the AGM 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2009.	JP and NA review website  NA newsletter and mailing list
<b>Solar panels and street lighting:</b> DE has been told by Bill Richards that after talking to several contractors the savings are not as good as we were led to believe. However it should still be followed up. JD will take on this project. SH will also introduce and energy consultant to the friends. Street lighting has been approved; we are currently waiting for an installation date.	JD follow up with solar panels
<b>Downstairs redevelopment:</b> 3 quotes were obtained for the main area but when getting quotes for the shower room's contractors suggested architects to help with health and safety, utilities and to allow them to more accurately quote. A brief summary about the downstairs redevelopment has been sent to the recreation and arts meeting 7 <sup>th</sup> September to ask for funds to get the drawings done.	NK to follow up
<b>Strides Football Club:</b> DE reports that Strides football club have started using the	DE to

downstairs changing areas and are communicating well, providing the dates they need changing facilities for well in advance. The friends suggest that it would be good to have a representative from Strides FC present at committee meetings.	Follow up
<b>October swimming:</b> Selling tickets, decision mid September whether to go ahead based on the number of tickets sold. There also may be funding for bucks sport for October swimming NA to follow up with this.	NA follow up
<b>Green Team:</b> NA request recycling bins for poolside area. DE and NA will follow up for next season. NA will also look at the carbon trust website to review the centre.	NA and TC
<b>Budget 2010/11:</b> PA has been told by CTC that if the Friends' wants to have an input into the centre budget that they must start looking at it now.	TD,PA and DE will explore
<b>Service review:</b> Ongoing- Nexus has shown an interest in the centre, this will be discussed more at the September meeting. The friends note that staff have worked hard to improve the financial position of the centre, which will improve more as new measures are introduced and that the public like to local and friendly atmosphere of the centre.	

NEXT MEETING 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Report to **RECREATION & THE ARTS COMMITTEE**  
meeting to be held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO: 6 –RENOVATION OF PERFORMANCE AREA**

**Reporting Officer:** Bill Richards (01494 583824)

### **Summary**

1. To receive an update on the redevelopment of the performance area in Lowndes Park.

### **Background Information**

2. The Friends of Lowndes Park have been awarded a Stage I award of £50,000 from the Lottery to renovate the park's performance area and to erect a seasonal canopy for bands to perform under. At the Council meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, it was resolved that *'the Council endorse and support the bid submitted by the Friends of Lowndes Park to the Big Lottery Fund's 'Changing Spaces' funding programme in respect to redeveloping the performance area.'* (Min no. 116)

### **Financial Implications**

4. As outlined within the report.

### **Strategic Objectives**

5. Accords with the Council's strategic aim 1 – *'To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational, and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents'*.

### **Detailed Consideration**

6. The Council has already seen and approved the seasonal canopy design at its meeting in May. However, bearing in mind the aesthetic importance of the area, the Friends Group and your officers are aware of the need for the Council to be happy with the style and design of the area resurfacing. Companies with this sort of experience have been invited to view the site and propose 'design and build' options for its upgrading on a fixed budget. As the applicant for the grant is the Friends of Lowndes Park rather than the Council itself, it would not be necessary to go through the official tendering process as stipulated by our financial regulations but the Friends and the officers will be working together closely to ensure best value for money is confirmed before any order placed.



7. A number of specialist paving stone companies were written to ascertain interest in quoting for the work. Three companies contacted the Town Hall and duly attended a site visit. Following this, two companies actively expressed an interest in quoting for the works. Both companies have now submitted plans which are **attached**.
8. Both companies have stated that they believe that to include both the seasonal canopy and the resurfacing the performance area would be in excess of the £50,000 grant monies promised by the lottery. Company A has given an indicative price in excess of £60,000 and as can be seen from the drawing is proposing to leave some of the area as grass to save monies. However this quote does include the construction of new steps over existing foundations. Company B's design is more ornate and comprehensive but, at the time of writing, has yet to forward an indicative cost but this is expected before the meeting.
9. Should the Council wish to authorise the go-ahead for one of these designs, it will require further funding. £30,000 is in the Renewal and Repairs budgets to upgrade Lowndes Park paths so a contribution could be made from there to facilitate this as match-funding. This may however affect the amount of path works that could be done elsewhere.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee receive and make recommendations upon the style and design of the Performance Area renovation.**

## **AGENDA ITEM NO: 7 – CHESHAM MOOR GYM AND SWIM CENTRE**

**Reporting Officers: Bill Richards (01494 583824), Danny Essex (01494 776975) and Stephen Pearson (01494 583825)**

### **Summary**

1. To consider an update on the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre and a financial report up to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

### **Background Information**

2. At the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 Minute 38(1b) it was resolved *'that the Officers, in consultation with the Friends of Moor Road, produce a five year business plan and that there be regular monitoring reports to each Recreation and the Arts Committee Meetings.'*

### **Financial Implications**

3. As outlined within the report.

### **Strategic Objectives**

4. Accords with the Council's strategic aim 1 – *'To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents.'*

### **Detailed Consideration**

#### **Finance**

5. The **attached** financial report (excluding Renewals & Repairs) shows the operational deficit as £2,589 at the end of July 2009 (£13,244 - 2008) against the year end estimate of £82,025. The budgeting profile for 2009/10 has not been completed yet but comparing income receipts this year against last year, for the four months, this year shows an improvement of £6,497.

6. The gym takings for the last seven months compared against the same seven months for the preceding year (excluding VAT) are shown below:

<b>2008</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>£</b>
January	4,640	January	6,490*
February	5,515	February	5,007*
March	5,034	March	7,880*
April	5,771	April	5,859*
May	4,753	May	6,678*
June	3,805	June	6,590*
July	<u>5,239</u>	July	<u>8,084*</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>34,757</u></b>		<b><u>46,588</u></b>

\* VAT reduction to 15%

7. The above figures demonstrate a very satisfactory increase of around 30% when comparing the last seven months against the same seven months in the preceding year. If an average of the last seven months is used as a basis for forecasting the income for 2009/10 this would equate to £79,865 against a budget figure of £70,000. The actual gym income for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 was £64,120. However it should be noted that a new gym has opened in Amersham which will lead to increased competition and could affect future takings.
8. The swimming season opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> May and up to the 31<sup>st</sup> July pool daily swimming income is up 8.5% on the same period for last year despite the free swimming concessions being offered at other local swimming pools for the under 16's and over 60's.
9. The daily swimming income totals £19,783 compared to £18,224 for the same period last year which eventually totalled £24,972 for the season.
10. Season ticket sales are down around 12% and details of these were reported to the last Committee meeting. Sales may have been influenced by the introduction of the free government swimming for over 60's and under 16's which is in operation at other local leisure centres since adult ticket sales (which are not included as part of the government promotion) are actually up. Alternatively, the last two poor summers, in terms of sunshine, combined with the current economic conditions, may have deterred people from paying a lump sum up front.
11. Despite the season ticket sales income of £13,593 being down compared to last year, the income is slightly over the 2009/10 budgeted figure of £13,345.
12. Due to the support of a grant from Bucks sports of £3,000 and advance commitments from current season ticket holders, the Council agreed at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September, to keep the pool open until the end of October on a reduced timetable.

#### All-Weather Pitch and Tennis Court Hiring

13. The tennis and multi-courts were officially re-opened in early July. Since then, bookings have been as follows (June figures are shown in brackets):

	<i>Multi-Court</i>			<i>Tennis Court</i>
	Hours			Hours
	Tennis	Netball	Football	
June	12	11	4	140
July	57	6	8	165
August	32	1	1	160

14. The tennis usage continues to be satisfactory but officers are aware that more usage of the multi-court area is required. With winter approaching, the Town Hall has written to all adult football teams in a four mile radius letting them know that they could train under floodlights. Hopefully this will generate interest and potentially some regular block bookings.

*Maintenance Issues*

15. The Centre Manager has listed a number of maintenance issues (**attached**). All works have been budgeted for within the renewals and repairs budget. A more strategic, environmental report for the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre is subject to a specific report at this meeting.

**Recommendations**

- 1. That the financial position and other matters be noted.**
- 2. That the Centre Manager be authorised to effect the necessary repairs as outlined with the report.**

## Budget Detail - By Centre

Note: (-) Net Expenditure means Income is greater than Expenditure

Note : AS AT 31ST JULY 2009

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>							<u>Next Year</u>		
	Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget	
<b>201</b>	<b>CHESHAM MOOR GYM &amp; SWIM</b>											
4001	SALARIES	60,000	60,760	72,000	0	0	72,000	29,259	0	0	0	0
4002	CONTRACTORS FEES	750	0	750	0	0	750	0	0	0	0	0
4004	WAGES	30,000	24,603	28,000	0	0	28,000	0	0	0	0	0
4008	TRAINING	500	1,126	2,000	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	0
4009	TRAVELLING	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4010	MISC STAFF COSTS	1,500	846	750	0	0	750	1,015	0	0	0	0
4011	RATES	13,000	13,675	9,955	0	0	9,955	14,356	0	0	0	0
4012	WATER RATES	3,500	3,492	3,520	0	0	3,520	689	0	0	0	0
4014	ELECTRICITY	5,145	6,222	6,450	0	0	6,450	-962	0	0	0	0
4015	GAS	11,700	9,049	15,000	0	0	15,000	2,971	0	0	0	0
4016	CLEANING	1,500	1,867	1,825	0	0	1,825	965	0	0	0	0
4017	SKIP HIRE	735	187	760	0	0	760	0	0	0	0	0
4019	CHEMICALS	3,500	3,387	3,565	0	0	3,565	2,312	0	0	0	0
4021	TELEPHONE & FAX	750	831	875	0	0	875	313	0	0	0	0
4022	POSTAGE	500	36	300	0	0	300	21	0	0	0	0
4023	STATIONERY	1,000	727	550	0	0	550	277	0	0	0	0
4025	INSURANCE	3,500	3,327	3,625	0	0	3,625	0	0	0	0	0
4026	PUBLIC LICENCES	200	316	325	0	0	325	326	0	0	0	0
4028	PHOTO-COPIER	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget
4032 PUBLICITY	5,000	3,628	5,500	0	0	5,500	1,795	0	0	0	0
4033 ADVERTISEMENTS	0	362	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4036 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	5,000	7,871	5,000	0	0	5,000	4,736	0	0	0	0
4038 MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	4,900	2,450	4,000	0	0	4,000	2,362	0	0	0	0
4041 EQUIPMENT RENTAL	15,000	11,180	15,000	0	0	15,000	5,400	0	0	0	0
4042 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	2,500	3,896	3,000	0	0	3,000	836	0	0	0	0
4047 ALARM	0	2,860	1,000	0	0	1,000	877	0	0	0	0
4048 EQUIPMENT	1,000	2,900	750	0	0	750	1,935	0	0	0	0
4053 LOAN INTEREST	7,065	6,316	7,065	0	0	7,065	0	0	0	0	0
4054 P.W.L.B.	3,620	4,367	3,620	0	0	3,620	0	0	0	0	0
4091 ADMIN STAFF RECHARGE	9,020	9,020	9,335	0	0	9,335	3,119	0	0	0	0
4092 ADMIN OHEAD RECHARGE	5,285	4,591	5,200	0	0	5,200	1,484	0	0	0	0
4093 DEPOT STAFF RECHARGE	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4094 DEPOT OHEAD RECHARGE	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4103 WATER CHECKS	0	1,255	615	0	0	615	0	0	0	0	0
4151 HANGING BASKETS	0	392	350	0	0	350	577	0	0	0	0
4152 HOSPITALITY	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0
4155 INSURANCE CLAIMS	0	1,274	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4199 SUNDRY EXPENSES	500	541	500	0	0	500	294	0	0	0	0
4250 NEW INITIATIVES	0	2,642	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4280 WEB SITE	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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		<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>						<u>Next Year</u>		
		Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget
4923	TFR TO/FR POOL FUND	0	1,006	0	0	0	0	419	0	0	0	0
4926	TFR TO/FR FLOWERS RES	0	-333	-350	0	0	-350	-577	0	0	0	0
<b>OverHead Expenditure</b>		196,710	197,068	210,835	0	0	210,835	74,824	0	0	0	0
3003	COLD DRINKS SUPPLIES	0	2,634	1,725	0	0	1,725	1,608	0	0	0	0
3004	POOL SNACKS SUPPLIES	2,500	1,756	1,700	0	0	1,700	1,295	0	0	0	0
3005	POOL HOT DRINKS SUPPLIES	1,750	579	520	0	0	520	425	0	0	0	0
3006	POOL CAFE SUPPLIES	250	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Direct Expenditure</b>		4,500	4,970	3,995	0	0	3,995	3,328	0	0	0	0
1004	POOL HOT DRINK SALES	3,600	1,175	1,200	0	0	1,200	0	0	0	0	0
1005	POOL SNACK SALES	3,600	1,852	2,100	0	0	2,100	0	0	0	0	0
1006	POOL COLD DRINK SALES	0	632	700	0	0	700	0	0	0	0	0
1101	HIRE FEES	0	141	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0
1105	RENT BUILDINGS	3,100	3,209	3,255	0	0	3,255	688	0	0	0	0
1144	CATERING	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
1187	INSURANCE CLAIMS	0	1,979	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1197	OVERS/UNDERS	0	62	0	0	0	0	-82	0	0	0	0
1199	SUNDRY INCOME	0	26	25	0	0	25	2	0	0	0	0
1500	CVSLA TRANS FUND	0	1,006	0	0	0	0	419	0	0	0	0
1501	ADULT SWIM	12,000	13,194	13,500	0	0	13,500	10,241	0	0	0	0

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	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>							<u>Next Year</u>	
	Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget
1502 JUNIOR SWIMMING	9,500	9,277	7,720	0	0	7,720	6,372	0	0	0	0
1503 SENIOR SWIMMING	1,280	1,750	1,450	0	0	1,450	1,977	0	0	0	0
1504 SPECTATORS	555	751	750	0	0	750	372	0	0	0	0
1505 FAMILY SWIM	1,980	0	0	0	0	0	821	0	0	0	0
1506 LEISURE SWIM	1,920	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1507 POOL HIRE	5,440	7,840	8,230	0	0	8,230	794	0	0	0	0
1508 SWIMMING LESSONS	900	466	700	0	0	700	0	0	0	0	0
1509 WET CLASS	1,950	2,670	2,800	0	0	2,800	7,486	0	0	0	0
1510 GYM	40,000	37,566	40,000	0	0	40,000	15,589	0	0	0	0
1512 COURT	2,000	2,781	4,000	0	0	4,000	2,883	0	0	0	0
1513 VENDING	360	1,471	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,791	0	0	0	0
1514 FOOTBALL PITCHES	1,700	1,847	1,860	0	0	1,860	0	0	0	0	0
1515 DRY CLASS	120	733	120	0	0	120	1,123	0	0	0	0
1516 PERSONAL TRAINING	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1517 SHOWERS	10	72	35	0	0	35	10	0	0	0	0
1518 BARBECUE HIRE	5	14	15	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
1519 POOL INFLATABLE	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1520 ROOM HIRE	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1601 ADULT SEASON TICKETS	6,000	5,880	6,175	0	0	6,175	5,003	0	0	0	0
1602 ADULT CONC S/TICKETS	5,875	5,600	4,700	0	0	4,700	4,894	0	0	0	0
1603 JUNIOR SEASON TICKETS	2,500	2,391	2,010	0	0	2,010	949	0	0	0	0

Continued on Page 5



Budget Detail - By Centre

Note: (-) Net Expenditure means Income is greater than Expenditure

Note : AS AT 31ST JULY 2009

		<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>							<u>Next Year</u>	
		Budget	Actual	Agreed Budget	Fwd/Rev Budget	Net Virement	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Committed Exp.	Projected Actual	Next Year Budget	C/Fwd Budget
1604	JUNIOR CONC S/TICKETS	600	546	460	0	0	460	81	0	0	0	0
1605	FAMILY SEASON TICKETS	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,470	0	0	0	0
1702	BGC GYM RECEIPTS	30,000	26,554	30,000	0	0	30,000	11,625	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total Income</b>	135,115	131,606	132,805	0	0	132,805	75,563	0	0	0	0
<b>201</b>	<b>Net Expenditure</b>	66,095	70,431	82,025	0	0	82,025	2,589	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total Budget Expenditure</b>	201,210	202,038	214,830	0	0	214,830	78,152	0	0	0	0
	<b>Income</b>	135,115	131,606	132,805	0	0	132,805	75,563	0	0	0	0
	<b>Net Expenditure</b>	66,095	70,431	82,025	0	0	82,025	2,589	0	0	0	0

## **Maintenance Programme Chesham Moor Gym and Swim**

### **Poolside maintenance**

Drain pool and inspect pool liner for tears. I believe there to be some damage to the liner towards the deep end and draining the pool is the easiest and cheapest option. Whilst drained we need to carry out other safety repair work such as fitting a one piece large stainless/plastic grille over the existing four outlet grilles. We have been advised to do this to comply with current safety standards because if one of the grilles get blocked there will be an increase in suction to the other three creating a possible hazard for bathers who may have long hair. To also comply with safety standards we are required to replace any wooden steps on pool ladders with plastic. There is also a safety issue regarding the inlets and the possibility of a child poking around with their fingers which in turn could lead to cut fingers as the pipe there is cast iron. I suggest a simple solution of a mesh grille fitted within these outlet grilles.

**Estimated repair work £3-£500**

### **Plant room renovation (chemical storage)**

We are currently awaiting our first quote for the improvements required in our pool plant room.

Whilst this work is being carried out, John Dunn's detailed report regarding savings on energy suggests a new replacement plastic pipe to be installed from the plant room. If our water loss tests prove that we are losing some of our re-heated, chlorinated water due to a cracked cast iron pipe on its return to the shallow end then it is advised that this urgent work be carried out this winter to prevent us from breaching our licence agreement with the Environment Agency.

**Estimated repair work £5-£7000 depending on water loss findings.**

### **Filter inspection**

I have been advised that our pool filter located in the plant room should be inspected annually, so I will pursue a maintenance quote.

### **Flat Roof**

The large flat roof above the pool view room has large amounts of vegetation growing on it now and needs to be refelted and stoned. This work needs to be carried out as soon as possible so I shall seek 3 quotes.

Danny Essex 27/9/09

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 8 – ENERGY SAVING ISSUES,  
CHESHAM MOOR GYM AND SWIM CENTRE**

**Reporting Officer: Bill Richards (01494 583824)**

**Summary**

1. To consider environmental measures and potential energy savings at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre.

**Background Information**

2. At the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 it was resolved '*That the Council proceed with the proposal to install solar panel heating and bring a further report to the Committee.*' (Minute No. 30)

**Financial Implications**

3. As outlined within the report.

**Strategic Objectives**

4. Accords with the Council's strategic aim 1 – '*To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents.*'

**Detailed Consideration**

5. Since the last Recreation and the Arts Committee, one of the Friends has taken on the project of looking at alternative energy sources at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre. Mr John Dunn is Engineering Manager for Parker KV Division, an advanced manufacturing technologies £10 billion company based in Milton Keynes.
6. Mr Dunn's initial report is very thorough and is **attached**. The Centre is very fortunate to have Mr Dunn's expertise assisting it. He writes, '*Significant savings may be possible by controlling the existing assets more efficiently. I feel these issues should be addressed in parallel with our investigation into more environmentally friendly ways of heating the water. In fact I would strongly suggest that if this is not done we will be very disappointed with the savings that could be made.*'

7. The report brings up a number of issues that needs to be addressed to improve environmental efficiency, most notably a probable leaking hot water pipe feed. Members' will note Mr Dunn's observations that *'if the leak is as significant is it sounds it makes no sense to consider environmentally friendly heating systems if we end up sending a significant amount of the hot water straight back into the ground.'* Mr Dunn fully intends to investigate alternative energy sources but believes other priorities need to be undertaken first to ensure the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre is running as smoothly as possible. After that, he believes other alternative energy options such as heat pump water heaters would be as, if not more, suitable than solar power at the centre.

#### **Recommendation**

**That the report from Mr Dunn be noted and welcomed and the Friends be requested, in liaison with Centre Manager, to develop a plan to tackle current energy loss while progressing the principle of installing the most suitable renewable energy system.**

# Moor Gym & Swim Swimming Pool

Visit to Pool on 18 & 25/09/09 Danny Essex

Report by John Dunn for Friends of Moor Gym & Swim

Preliminary analysis of opportunities for environmentally friendly energy and costs savings.

## Brief Conclusions

Significant savings may be possible by controlling the existing assets more efficiently.

I feel these issues should be addressed in parallel with our investigation into more environmentally friendly ways of heating the water. In fact I would strongly suggest that if this is not done we will be very disappointed with the savings that could be made. We should prioritise work in conjunction with Bill & Danny.

Unless we can get more help, which may be possible through Richard Thorndike and ANO, we could risk not getting all the necessary work done before the Low Carbon Grant Initiative expires.

## Data

Total energy running total costs for pool

Elec £6226

Gas £9049

Source Pool last year Accounts April 08 – 09

Proviso – These costs are based on use of old style gas heaters for pool heating

## Energy Costing Data

Current Elect DAY Units 7.43p k/Wh plus CCL 0.47p per k/Wh Other Units 4.87p per k/Wh plus CCL 0.47p per k/Wh New contract 1/10/09 price not yet known but around 30%. Also pay a quarterly standing charge £22.01 Day time for energy rates 7 am to 7 pm

Current Gas 2.0185p per k/Wh plus .0164p CCL per k/Wh new contract due 1/11/09 price not yet confirmed but around 20%

VAT payable on all above prices

Source Steve Pearson CTC

## CO2 conversion factors

Electricity - 0.537 Kg CO2/kWh

Natural Gas - 0.185 Kg CO2/kWh

Source Carbon Trust

## Information Regarding Pool from Poster in Pool Reception

Size 25.85 m x 10 .63 m

Min Depth 0.9 m Max Depth 1.82m ( no drawing seen so can only estimate pool volume ).

Pool Target Temperature 29° C

Average temperature of water from Artesian Well – not known

## Energy saving and Cost Opportunities

### Circulation Pumps

I understand water circulation pumps are run 24hr continuously through the year.

Pump Rating is 8.2KW Driven by Danfoss HVAC FC100 (frequency converter)

This reduces power drawn to approx 3.1 KW

Cost is  $3.1 \times (12) \times 365 \times 0.0928 + 3.1 \times 12 \times 365 \times 0.0627 = \text{£}2111$  per year (14582 kgCO<sub>2</sub> / yr)

Action: Check we have the best deal for our level of consumption of energy

If pump was switched off when pool not in use

Ie overnight and during the winter . Only Run pump normally for 1 hr after finish & 1 hr before start and one hour per day in winter

A estimate of savings of approx  $(3.1 \times 8 \times 5 \times 31 \times 0.0627) + (3.1 \times (12) \times 7 \times 31 \times 0.0928) + (3.1 \times 10 \times 7 \times 31 \times 0.0627) = (241 + 749 + 421) = \text{£}1411$  per year (11790kg CO<sub>2</sub> / yr)

If it is not possible to turn the pump off it may be possible to run it at half speed, when the pool is not in use, reducing the savings.

There is a timer on the Danfoss HVAC FC100 which it may be possible to utilise.

Issues to be resolved first.

A complete system is required to ensure that heating system Chlorinator pumps etc all work in sync.

Affect on Chlorinator Bayromat Analyt 3 E

Affect on heating system

What will happen if the Pump is turned off for extended periods?

Note: Corrosion of the pumps may be an issue. Need to discuss with the Pump manufacturers.

Will the pump work at half speed okay?

Effect on Water Quality-

It may be possible that even greater savings could be made if the pump does not have to run at full speed all the time the pool is open. We need some guidelines on acceptable practice.

The following publications available at the pool should be used to help us make a decision on how these systems are run

Swimming Pool Water Treatment and Quality Standards

Published by Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group

**Cost £ 35.00 + P&P**

Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools

Published by Health & Safety Commission/Sport England

**Cost £ 10.50 + P&P**

**Action:** I recommend the following publication should be obtained to ensure best practice is carried out at the swimming pool and help us to decide what we can do.

Details of publication :

Title : Management of public swimming pools - Water treatment systems, water treatment plant and heating and ventilation systems - Code of practice

Series/doc. No **PAS 39:2003**

Year **2003**

Abstract: Gives general operational and safety recommendations for the management of public swimming pool water treatment systems, water treatment plant, and heating and ventilation systems in the UK.

**History:** This product approval specification is not a British Standard and will be withdrawn on publication of its content as a British Standard.

**Subject(s):** Civil engineering and public utilities

Public health/water engineering

Water quality

Building types

Sports/recreational facilities

Swimming pools

Obtainable from BSI for £74 (£34 for members)

### **Leaking Hot Water Feed pipe?**

The feed pipe from the gas boiler travels from the pump house at the deep end, the full length of the pool, to allow hot water to enter the pool at the shallow end of the pool.

Danny Essex has seen the end of the pipe and thinks that it is cast iron although the exposed part in the pump house is plastic.

A test was carried out some time ago which showed that when the pumps were switched off the level of the pool dropped a few centimetres overnight.

At the time there was some debate if this drop in water was caused by evaporation or leakage from the pipe.

To me it seems an excessive amount to be seen as evaporation. If the pump is cast iron it has obviously been in the ground for many years passing corrosive dilute hydrochloric acid. A leak is quite possible.

Another issue is that the pipe is probably not insulated, certainly not to modern standards.

Danny and I carried out some tests on the 25 of Sept on the artesian well because there was a smell of Chlorine a waft of warm air when we opened it. We lowered the pool thermometer into the water and measured a water temperature of 81.5 °F which is 27.5 °C. Ground water is not normally much above 10°C. We then took a sample of water for analysis. It showed a pH of 7.3 and a chlorine level of 1. The pool pH for comparison is 7.3 and the Chlorine level is 2.

This is confirmation that there is contamination risk as it indicates chlorinated water is being pumped into the ground. There must also be a consideration to the amount of water we are extracting to replace this water loss.

Action: Danny will try and carry out another overnight water check to measure the loss of water ASAP (before the 5 Oct if possible) and possibly another longer one in November if the overnight check is inconclusive. This will confirm (or not) the extent of the leakage. I can carry out some rough calculations on energy loss/Cost when I know the results.

To give rough indication of this Danny indicated there might have been as much as a 1.5 in (4cm) fall in 18 hr over 2 years ago. If this was the actual figure over a season we would be losing heat energy of approx £1100 (8700 kg CO<sub>2</sub>) through the pipe.

I would therefore propose that we urgently look to replace the pipe with a modern well insulated PVC pipe. Danny has suggested that this could pass through the undercroft for most of the distance. The main disruption and cost would be in the surround to the shallow end, which would have to be dug out to allow the pipe to be replaced.

If the leak is as significant as it sounds it makes no sense to consider environmentally friendly heating systems if we end up sending a significant amount of the hot water straight back into the ground.

I would also expect that the payback period on the work required to replace the pipe would be favourable if we are losing significant heat and hot water.

Note: We ought to check the implications on the swimming pool structure as the ground dries out.

### **Artesian Well Pump**

Extraction of water

Pump Rating 1.1 Kw used intermittently to raise water when the sensor in the balance tank indicates the pool level has fallen too far.

Issues : Use of water The license allows extraction of 800 meter per year

Danny has been recording usage since 14/11/08

Reading 14/11/08 0455047

Reading 25/09/09 053471

**Usage 7966 x 100 Litre = 796.6 cu meter of water so far very close to our limit already**

Other considerations: Should we Chlorinate and heat the water from the well before it enters the pool ??

### **Boilers**

Jandy Lite 2 Model LG (Pool & Spa Heater)

Do the boilers need to run all the time during the season?

A simple timer could be used to turn them off overnight. (See also provisos on Pumps)

Action: A simple test carried out overnight to measure the fall in temperature and the time taken for the temperature to reach desired temperature.

Temperature control of Water

Currently the only temperature control carried out on the water is when it passes through the boiler. This is very crude when we consider that it is the water in the pool we need to control. Solar gain means that sometimes the water temperature in the pool is too high and Danny or his staff have to go to the boiler room to turn the boiler down or occasionally off. By this time energy will have been consumed to no good use and the water in the pool will have become too hot for comfortable swimming. (I know I have been there when this has happened) I would propose that we investigate a more sophisticated controller similar to ones used in many houses where a wall thermostat controls air temperature. Obviously in this case will be feeding back pool temperature to the boiler. This would not be a complete solution but could be an improvement on what we have now.

Action : Monitor the pool temperature to find out how well it is controlled.



**Action: Find controller**

Note: If a more sophisticated controller is considered we must consider the need to override the control if pool hire or other events require the program to be altered.

We may have to consider moving the controller to somewhere more accessible with some security of course.

**Boiler for Heating the Ladies showers and radiators**

There is a timer control in this room. The settings should be reviewed to ensure they are set up to suit the requirements of the Pool.

We should also consider whether a more efficient boiler would be worth considering.

**Boiler for heating men's showers**

Not seen yet.

**Filter**

The filter has to be regularly backflushed to clean it from people who contaminate the pool with sunscreen, deodorants and other things probably much nastier. This again is throwing away hot water and using up our allowance from the artesian well.

A campaign to get people to shower before they enter the pool is unlikely to be hugely effective. An awareness of the costs involved in the loss of water would at least give us an idea of the size of the problem and whether a poster campaign would be cost effective.

**Action: Danny to record the amount of water use during each backflush for the remainder of the season. I can then make a rough estimate of the energy loss and derive a cost from this.**

**Other Actions**

Investigate environmentally friendly ways of heating the pool.

Actions: refresh / update the solar heating quote

Obtain a Heat pump comparative quote.

Investigate Grant opportunities.

**Use of energy by month**

Danny has been keeping regular records of energy. This will help us in planning and understanding the impact of extended operation of the pool.

Action: Find conversion rates between units and kWh and plot results.

**Lighting**

Lighting is much more difficult to economise on, but after discussion with staff I understand that most lighting in the centre is turned on at the beginning of the day by staff at reception where all the light switches are based. We don't want to make the Gym uninviting through lack of lighting but there are things that could be done.

A rough estimate of these costs are as follows – I have had to make lots of assumptions based on usage and light power ratings as I do not have enough data.

Lighting	strip	circular	Flood	other
Gym	11			
reception	1			
mens changing	3	1		
ladies changing	8	1		
Hallway	3			
fitness room	2			
Halway timer	4			
office	1			
Downstairs area	9	2		
Stairs		2		
External pool				8
External other				3
Tennis court			?	
Total	42	6	11	4
assume power W	60	30	1000	100
Approx hrs per year	4380	4380	279	2555
rate	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.063
cost £	1024	73	285	64
Total cost of lights/ yr £	1446			
Kg Carbon / yr	5927	423	1648	549
Total carbon kg/yr	8547			

To take a few examples downstairs lighting costs approx £200 per year (1270 kg CO<sub>2</sub> / yr). This area is only used very occasionally. If a light switch was based downstairs, any user could switch this light on when needed only. If the reception were still able to turn lights off centrally this could prevent lights being left on overnight.

Changing rooms cost approx £292 per year (1693 kg CO<sub>2</sub> / yr) but only get used occasionally during the winter. An automatic lightswitch would mean they were only lit when necessary.

Notices and staff education would cost even less and may show some benefit.

We could also investigate whether we are using the most efficient lighting available.

Action: Get more accurate data of Lamp wattages and estimates of time lights usage. I suspect I am significantly underestimating usage as Electricity bill is so high.

### **Prioritise Work**

There is a long list of actions here, which we do not have the recourse to investigate all at once.

I propose the following priorities.

- 1) Carry out leak tests and temperature tests.
- 2) Study guidelines to see what is possible
- 3) Find out where & how **all** the energy (both gas & electric) is consumed.
- 4) Define issues in terms of costs CO<sub>2</sub> and returns
- 5) Define what we would like to do
- 6) Get technical advice (maybe advice from suppliers would be sufficient)
- 7) Investigate efficient control systems
- 8) Review environmentally friendly heating sources

Report to **RECREATION & THE ARTS COMMITTEE**  
meeting to be held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO: 9 – CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

**Reporting Officer:** Steve Pearson (01494 583825)

### **Summary**

1. To consider the Town Centre Christmas lighting scheme 2009.

### **Background Information**

2. The Christmas lighting scheme was last upgraded in 2004 via proposals from the Consortium – *Policy and Resources Committee 13<sup>th</sup> September 2004 Minute Number 26*. The festoons of white lights were introduced with the Consortium contributing £1,000 per year for five years to cover the initial purchase (note the last payment due last year had to be deferred for a year and is expected this year). The Council pays for erecting, maintenance, removal and energy costs of the festoons together with the main Christmas tree and permanent tree lights.

### **Financial Implications**

3. As outlined within the report.

### **Strategic Objectives**

4. Accords with the Council's strategic aim 1 – *'To enable residents to enjoy high-quality social, recreational, and cultural facilities within the town and to seek the continuing improvement and development of these facilities in accordance with the desires expressed by the residents'* and 6 – *'to represent the views and wishes of the citizens of Chesham.'*

### **Detailed Consideration**

5. The lights are on timers currently set to come on at 4.00pm to midnight and a request from a member of the public came in last year that the lights should be on when the children come out of school. The same person also suggested that the Town Centre lacked festive spirit on Christmas Eve and that the lights should be on all day on this day but this is not practicable as the lights are on timers and it would involve someone going around and switching these on and off again.
6. The Committee may want to consider extending or altering the timings:
  - a) Each additional hour would cost around £300 in electricity costs at last year's rates, probably nearer £400 this year. The switching on time was changed from

3pm to 4pm as a cost saving exercise a few years ago.

b) Although the lights are more effective in the dark, there are probably more people around between 3pm and 4pm than 11pm to midnight. Is midnight an appropriate cut off time or should this be brought forward to 11pm and the switch on brought forward to 3pm?

or

c) leave the timings unchanged -4pm to midnight.

7. The lights in the permanent Town Centre/High Street trees have had less of an impact over the years as the trees have grown and the local contractor responsible for erecting the lights is suggesting that three of the trees need redecorating completely - namely the one near in the High Street side of Waitrose, the one outside Thomas Cook and the one in Market Square near Curry Garden.. He is suggesting at least 6 sets of LED white lights as a minimum per tree. Cost of LED lights, installation into tree plus removing all the old lights £1,150 per tree. There is provision of £14,000 within the Renewal and Repairs Programme for updating the lighting scheme. This is to include the festoons, permanent tree lights and feeder boxes. Your officers are in discussion with the Buckinghamshire County Council on any possible tree pollarding works to increase the visual aspect of the lights within the trees.
8. Alternatively the Committee may want to leave the permanent tree lights until the festoon part of the lighting scheme is reviewed in consultation with the Chesham Chamber of Trade and Commerce, possibly next year but only if the Chamber can source funding.
9. Your officers have placed an order on a three year hire (£450 per year) for a new across street decoration at the Market Square end of the High Street opposite the Red Lion Public house to fill the void left where the tree has been removed for health and safety reasons as this is the main area for the switching on ceremony.
10. In respect of the removal of the False Acacia tree from the Market Square, Buckinghamshire County Council has indicated that it has no monies to replace the tree. The Parks and Premises Manager has indicated that to purchase a similar type of tree would only be in the region of £45. However it would only be 8 foot in size and take some years to grow to the size of the previous tree. This means therefore, even with a swift purchase, no lights could be put in them for at least three years. Moreover there is the matter of the maintenance which would almost certainly have to be undertaken and financed by the Council. The Tree Warden suggests that an 8 foot may be subject to vandalism in this location and recommends a larger tree. He also makes a few suggestions as to what type of tree may be desirable (**attached**).

**Recommendation**

- 1. That the timings be altered from 3pm to 11pm**
- 2. The Committee's further consideration of the three trees and their lights is requested together with future proposals**
- 3. The Committee decide whether it wishes to finance and maintain a replacement False Acacia or other tree**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Richards", with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Richards  
Town Clerk

Further to your 'phone call.

- Trees in the High Street are at constant risk of Friday/Saturday night vandalism when the pubs close.
- Larger trees are less likely to be vandalised than smaller ones. e.g. replacement trees outside Greggs and near the Burger Bar. Smaller trees failed several times due to Friday/Saturday night activity, allegedly from the night club. When Sainsbury's developer laid out their Car Park the landscaper had a spare tree, which they planted opposite Sainsbury's entrance near to the Burger Bar. It was bigger than we had been planting and survived.
- Container grown trees have the best chance of success, but cost more.
- Is it known what killed the original Market Square tree? Would it be wise to change the species in case of re-infection?
- Replacement trees are not normally planted back in the same place, as the soil will be depleted and/or contaminated. If the location has to be the same there should be some change of soil.
- A flowering or fruiting tree would look good here, but a flowering cherry is not recommended as they tend to be surface rooted and lift concrete/asphalt. Horse Chestnuts are no longer recommended as highway trees as they shed branches and need regular pollarding.
- A cedar could be an evergreen tree planted here, the Cedar of Lebanon, has branches that are widespread and level, the Deodar has branches that descend, whilst the Atlas Cedar's branches ascend, so if a Cedar were selected the Atlas Cedar would be the best option here.
- The London Plane, (*Platanus acerifolia*) copes well with all the drawbacks of smoke, exhaust fumes, fog, flagstones and tarmac and has thrived in Chesham's pedestrian dominated area, so might be worth considering.
- *Malus pumila*, the crab apple copes well locally, in May its branches and shoots are rendered beautiful by the abundance of delicately tinted and fragrant flowers. It is attractive also in the autumn, when the miniature apples hang from the boughs.
- *Sorbus Aucuparia* or Mountain Ash or Rowan is a hardy tree, indifferent to the character of the soil and the absence of the need for pruning make it a popular choice in streets and restricted areas. It grows to between thirty to fifty feet high. There are dense clusters of creamy white flowers in dense clusters in May or June. Miniature bright red fruits the size of holly berries ripen in September and are a great attraction to birds like thrushes and blackbirds who rapidly strip the tree of them.
- Both the crab apple and the Rowan are medium size trees that individually will not develop into a significant landmark tree, which might be what some councillors would prefer, but is there enough soil depth for a very large tree? I doubt it.

Hope this helps with deliberations.

Bernard Meldrum, Town Tree Warden.