

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

12 March 2014

Report of the Director of Street Scene & Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 TONBRIDGE RACECOURSE SPORTSGROUND PROJECTS

Summary

The report updates Members on a number of projects taking place within and adjacent to Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 A number of significant projects will, or are, being undertaken either within or close to Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground. The works are being undertaken by a number of organisations, including the Borough Council. This report provides Members with details of the projects and outlines the steps taken to ensure a coordinated approach is being adopted to minimise the disruption to users of the site. A site map can be found at **[Annex 1]** highlighting key locations in relation to the works.

1.2 Bewley's Weir

1.2.1 Bewley's Weir is located to the north of Tonbridge Memorial Gardens and is managed and maintained by the Environment Agency (EA). The EA has advised the Council that it will be undertaking significant repair/replacement works to the weir in 2014.

1.2.2 The works will involve the closure of the footpath and cycle track over the weir bridge with alternative routes available for public use. During the works an area of River Lawn will be closed for use by the EA as a works compound. The EA has advised that the works will take place in two phases. The first of these will be the installation of a sheet piled coffer dam to provide both protection to the failing structure and safe access to the structure for further inspection. It is currently programmed for this phase to begin in mid March and for the investigations to be completed in late April 2014.

1.2.3 It is currently programmed for the subsequent construction works to refurbish Bewley's Weir to commence in autumn 2014 and the construction programme is anticipated to be of the order of 20 weeks.

1.3 Avebury Avenue Bridge

- 1.3.1 Members will be aware of the current Capital Plan Scheme for the replacement of the bridge. The Avebury Avenue bridge, along with the bridge at Bewley's Weir, provides an important and well used pedestrian link both to and through Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground. As such, the simultaneous closure of both bridges is not considered appropriate. The Council's Engineers are, therefore, liaising with the EA to establish the most appropriate time to undertake the works to the Avebury Avenue bridge.

1.4 Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground

- 1.4.1 South East Water (SEW) currently extract drinking water from two locations at Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground and, due to current extraction rates, are planning to install two additional wells. Test wells have already been dug on site and SEW has identified two new suitable locations.
- 1.4.2 The works are due to commence in early March and take approximately five months to complete. The works will include the provision of temporary tracking for heavy work vehicles and the provision of a site compound.
- 1.4.3 Liaison has been undertaken with both SEW and the Tonbridge Sports Association to ensure that the works do not restrict formal use of the sports pitches.

1.5 Tonbridge Memorial Gardens

- 1.5.1 Members will be aware of the Capital Plan Project for the refurbishment of Tonbridge Memorial Gardens with an update on the project subject to a separate report within these papers. The works are due to commence in April and take three months to complete. The Gardens will be closed for this period of time and it is anticipated that a small section of Bradford Street Car Park will be utilised as a site compound.

1.6 Legal Implications

- 1.6.1 None.

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.7.1 None.

1.8 Risk Assessment

- 1.8.1 Liaison with appropriate external organisations has been undertaken to minimise disruption to the general public and user of the Sportsground.

1.9 Policy Considerations

1.9.1 Asset Management and Community.

Background papers:

contact: Darren Lanes

Nil

Robert Styles
Director of Street Scene & Leisure