

## EXECUTIVE

8 JANUARY 2019

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

#### Procedure for the discharge of business at this meeting

The Leader of the Council, as chairman of the Executive, welcomes the attendance of members of the public and non-Executive councillors at this meeting of the Executive.

The procedure for dealing with each item of business shall be as follows:

1. Lead Councillor to introduce report on the matter
2. Members of the public invited to ask a question or comment, for which they will have a maximum of **three** minutes each
3. Opportunity for councillors to ask questions of the public speaker(s)
4. Non Executive councillors invited to ask a question or comment, for which they will have a maximum of **five** minutes each
5. Lead councillor to respond to comments and questions
6. Executive debates the matter
7. Chairman to invite Executive to make decision on the matter

#### **Item 5: Annual Audit Letter 2017-18**

Lead Councillor: Councillor Nigel Manning  
Lead Officer: James Whiteman, Managing Director

#### **Item 6: Chantry Wood Campsite**

Mr Jonathan Bigmore has registered to speak in respect of this matter.

Lead Councillor: Councillor David Bilbé  
Lead Officers: Paul Stacey, Parks and Landscape Manager  
Hendryk Jurk, Countryside Manager

#### Additional Information to address residents' concerns

The operation of Forest Schools at Chantry Wood is not a new proposal.

There are currently two Forest Schools running in Chantry Wood, which have been operating over the past five years. One during term time 1-2 a week, the other daily in School Holidays. Safeguarding issues raised are already managed efficiently by the Forest School providers.

The proposals will, however, enable the forest school to make better use of the areas away from the busy bridleway and footpaths.

On occasion these schools book the campsite in order to use the associated facilities (toilet and fire pits). However, this is limited when the site is used by campers.

The proposed change would enable the Forest School to make permanent use of facilities and provide storage areas.

We should be clear that Forest schools are neither a day nursery where hundreds of children attend, nor an Outdoor Education Centre as described in the local press. The proposals include operation of up to 5 days a week, 8-24 children, involving for example 1-3 groups of up to eight children. The site will remain open to the public in the same way as the current campsite.

Discussions with the providers made clear that there is no need to drive to the campsite. The use of the car park could continue as present. As it currently stands, the proposals will reduce the traffic compared to the current use of the campsite.

Forest schools are daytime activities, therefore the proposal reduces disturbances at night. However, we note the concerns about Duke of Edinburgh Award campers. This is something we have already addressed, and camping use from Scout Groups or similar could be accommodated in future.

Forest School activities are aimed at low impact use of natural areas, and include:

- Walking through woodland and listening to sounds
- Making decorations out of leaves
- Story telling about woodlands
- Hide and seek
- Den building
- Orienteering

Using the campsite will add:

- Fire making
- Cooking