MINUTES OF PLANNING FOR PLAY TASK GROUP

7 DECEMBER 2011

PRESENT:

Councillors Butlin (Chairman), G Francis, Miss Lawrence, Mrs New, Mrs O’Rourke and Srivastava.

Steve Parkes (Principal Planning Officer), Colin Horton (Green Spaces Officer), Vicky Norman (Play Development Officer), Paul Ansell (Scrutiny Officer) and Linn Ashmore (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer).

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

21. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Hazelton and Lowe (substitute for Councillor Hazelton).

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs New declared a general personal interest by virtue of being an employee of Warwickshire County Council.

23. DRAFT REVIEW REPORT

The task group considered the revised draft review report which had been circulated with the agenda.

The task group approved the deletion of the additional wording to action number 4.1 to avoid duplication of action 3.1.

During discussion of the item the following points were made:

The task group raised concerns that ward members could be unaware of proposed developments that were at the pre-planning application stage and whether provision for play was being considered through the correct processes. Members commented it was important that developers consult at an early stage to avoid wasting time and effort.

It was agreed that recommendation 3, which is also linked to action 2.1, be amended to read “The Parks and Grounds Manager should be consulted by planning officers on all planning applications and pre-planning application discussions where there is a requirement for public open space containing play areas”.

To ensure that ward members are made aware of proposed developments it was agreed that a recommendation be added to the report stating “Ward members to be notified at the pre-application discussion stage of any applications for open spaces which include play areas.”

It was noted that work relating to the smaller contributions from s.106 agreements was ongoing and action 1.1 should therefore be amended to read “A record to be kept of planning applications approved and any related to s.106 agreements which have a specific requirement for the provision of play areas to include future changes in funding arrangements.”

A suggestion was made that the addition of photographs to the draft review report would provide helpful visual examples of both good and bad play areas. Officers proposed that plans could provide a better illustration and agreed to explore this request further and circulate examples to members of the task group.

It was necessary to maintain a link between the Council and developers to ensure the essence of the Play Strategy was being upheld. It was agreed that developers should be issued with a copy of the Play Strategy at the initial pre-planning application discussion stage.

It was agreed that the review report should be appended to the revised version of the Play Strategy.

During further discussion of the item it was agreed that the following amendments be made to the draft review report and action plan:

3.1 Fact Finding – the final bullet point be amended to read “Discussion with developers’ consultants”.

4.2 Quantity – the open space audit be referred to as 2008 Open Space Audit.

4.6 Consultation with users

- The section to be retitled “Consultation with members of the public and users.”
- the wording in the fifth paragraph “for cross-generation” be removed and replaced with “cutting across all generations”.
- the wording in the seventh paragraph “informally encountered several” be removed and replaced with “met”.

4.7 Integration of play provision into scheme design - the title for Mark Rose should be amended to “planning consultant working for Cala Homes and Bloors”, and the wording “one of” removed from the first line.

5. Conclusions

5.1 – The wording be amended to read –

“The standards contained in the Play Strategy are fundamentally sound and the task group does not wish to recommend amendments but this review report should become an appendix of it.”

Action Plan

Sub Action 1.2.1 – amend to read “Circulate advice to planning officers and ward members on the implementation of action 1.2.”
**Action 2.2** to be added which should link to the change made to paragraph 5.1 of the report –
Action: This report to be appended to the Play Strategy. The due date for the action to be 30 April 2012 and should be managed by Carolyn Johnson and Chris Worman.

**Action 4.1** – the crossed out wording to be removed.

**Action 4.3** – the wording be amended to read “The Parks and Grounds Manager to be consulted on relevant s.106 clauses or conditions that trigger delivery of play provision or subsequently changed funding arrangements. [To be included in periodic report to Customer and Partnerships Committee]”

The task group thanked the Chairman, Cllr Butlin, and officers for their hard work during the course of the review.

**CHAIRMAN**