

Charitable Trust Board 28 October 2020
Public Questions – Derek Swift

1. In the minutes of the meeting of 29 January 2020 it is minuted under Section 19 that the Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee now has a clear vision for the future of the Park. Councillor Appleyard advised that a 10-year plan would be drawn up and also a management team would be assembled. Councillor Myers suggested that it would be a mistake to ignore the energy of the community and proposed a round table management structure.

To that end the Alice Park Sub-Committee was formally minuted to:

- A Produce a 10-year plan after Consultation with the community.
- B To formally request the Sub-committee produce a suitable community engagement model for consideration at the next meeting.

I appreciate that we are in a pandemic but if there is a “clear vision” I do not understand why this committee is only getting a verbal report on both those issues.

Response

Although there have been elements of activity contributing to the 10-year plan ambition, work on identifying an effective community engagement model has yet to progress. This delay has been due to the impact of Covid-19.

2. Alice Park Sub-Committee – Annual Report

In item 20 of the minutes it is reported that I advised that the accounts did not comply with Charities Act regulations. The Charity Commission has subsequently confirmed to me in writing that I was indeed correct. I wrote to them as advised by Michael Hewitt during the meeting.

Are the Board comfortable that the Sub-Committee have access to sufficient accounting experience to be able to prepare correct accounts and have them independently examined as required by law?

Response

The Charity Commission has confirmed it is satisfied with the Alice Park Trust accounts and have closed their enquiry. In the light of the advice the Council will amend the presentation in all future accounts. This information will be conveyed to the Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee at its next scheduled meeting and then reported to the Charitable Trust Board and as part of annual Charitable Trust Board report to Council.

3. Alice Park Sub-Committee

I am aware that the Charity Commission made enquiries of the Charity on 9 April 2020 and had received no response by 8 August 2020. A further reminder was sent by the Charity Commission on 8 August requesting a reply by 21 August 2020. Has a full reply now been given to the Charity Commission? Has the Charitable Trust Board been made aware of these matters?

Response

A response was provided to the Charity Commission on 5 October 2020. The Charity Commission replied on 6 October with the following:

“The responses to the questions asked are satisfactory and have been placed on file.

No further action is required, and I have therefore closed my case.”

The Charity Commission had previously been contacting a former trustee’s email address and it was for this reason that a response was not made sooner.