

NOTES FROM ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE WORKING GROUP

13 May 2020 at 19h00

1. Present: Cllrs Henwood (Chairman), Eggleston, Barrett-Miles and Neumann
2. The chairman referred to the paper from Cllr Eggleston which had been an item on the Strategic Development KAG on 29 April 2020. This set out what Assets of Community Value (ACVs) were. If granted, an ACV lasts for 5 years where after an application can be submitted to renew its status. An ACV does not provide any planning protection. It was recognised that large sums of money would be needed to acquire any of the ACVs identified, however it was felt that obtaining ACV status was an important step in protecting assets for the future of the community.
3. Cllr Barrett Miles suggested that each of the identified sites should be discussed and motivated as follows:
  - Burnside: The Shed is located here and it is an important centre for people with learning disabilities and as such should be preserved.
  - Orion: This is the only cinema in town. The façade is already protected in the neighbourhood plan. It provides an important social function in the town and as such should be preserved.
  - Pubs: There are numerous pubs in town. They are not of community value. If there was only one pub then it could be considered.
  - Church Buildings: The Salvation Army Building was considered but it was pointed out that if SA leaves they could not be replaced. The building was not considered an ACV. The Mosque was privately owned and was unlikely to be lost to the community.
  - St Johns Pavilion was considered an ACV as it provides an important function in the park and is well used by the cricket club.
  - Library: This is an important social hub and qualifies as an ACV.
  - Old Post Office was not considered an ACV.
  - Theatre: This is owned by the Theatre Club which could dispose of it someday. As it is currently the only theatre in town it was considered worth protecting as an ACV
  - Burgess Hill Girls School: Privately owned and unlikely to be lost. Not considered an ACV
  - Football Club: This is commercially owned and not considered an ACV
  - Park Centre: This is a charity and as such has protection from the Charity Commission. Not an ACV
  - Marle Place Grounds: Not considered an ACV
4. Cllr Eggleston suggested criteria for the determination of an ACV:

- Those easiest to justify should be the easiest to apply for.
  - There is no guarantee that the council might be able to acquire an ACV but those identified at least give a chance.
  - They should be publicly owned
5. Further discussion on some of the ACVs proposed was as follows:
    - Marle Place Grounds: The grounds are owned by MSDC while the building is owned by WSCC. It was felt that there could be development risk. Planning policy does protect it and was therefore not considered a priority.
    - Land between 75 and 77A Chanctonbury Road: This was protected in the neighbourhood plan. It should go on a watch list and be revisited in the future.
    - Burnside: this was considered an ACV but could we afford it?
    - Marle Place: It was decided that this was not at risk and therefore not a high priority.
    - Orion: Lack of an alternative cinema makes it an ACV. Could be reviewed in the future.
    - Cricket Pavilion: It is a landmark in the park and provides an important facility for the cricket club. It is also used by a play group.
    - Theatre Club: Has no income and could be sold for development and there would then be no theatre in town. It could however result in a bidding war.
  6. It was agreed that application for ACV status should be made for the following sites: Burnside, Orion cinema, Theatre Club, St Johns Cricket Pavilion, New Library.
  7. It was agreed that the following sites should be considered "On Watch": Marle Place Park and 75 to 77A Chanctonbury Road.
  8. Consideration was given as to whether each ACV should be applied for separately or en bloc. It was agreed that all five should be applied for.
  9. The CEO would put together the applications and send around the group for review before submitting.
  10. The group would be open for further suggestions.

Meeting ended at 19.25