

Clerk's Report and additional information for items for the Community and Culture Committee Meeting 10th December 2024.

1. PA System – The Clerk has now had two more companies come in to give a quote for updating the system. She is awaiting the quotes.
2. Disability Project at Manchester Drive Allotments – Meeting organised for the 28th January 2025.
3. CCTV at Manchester Drive Allotments – This is still being investigated.
4. Cooker for Café – all installed and working well.
5. Lighting in Room 4 – the Clerk is still obtaining further quotes.
6. Draft Budget – this went to the Finance & Governance Committee on Tuesday 3rd December and was recommended for Full Council.

Item 6 Events For 2025

The Bookings and Events Officer has circulated a report on the suggested events for the year for 2025 for discussion. The Clerk asks the committee to talk about the suggested events and agree the list. The events working group will then work with the Bookings and Events Officer and the Clerk to gather more information on each event as it is due to take place and to be brought to relevant meetings for further agreement.

Item 7 Christmas Lights

Below is the email received from a member of the public regarding the lights for 2025. The Clerk asks for the committee to discuss the lights and set up a specific working group to discuss the possible events for the Christmas Lights for 2025.

'Firstly, I would like to thank you, Ellie and Carole for last night's Christmas event, it was a great success, so missed last year and was endanger again of not taking place without yours and their hard work.

I like many used to enjoy the Christmas parade it was a community occasion, Bernard announced he was bringing back once he became chairman and residents were delighted, it didn't happen, no official statement was made as to why it didn't come back and as far as I know no discussions were had. Bernard stated in a C & C that he had asked the shop keepers, and they wanted the parade back, I was later told that the shop keepers didn't want it due to the level of shoplifting, I spoke to several shop keepers none had been approached by Bernard, so I wasn't sure who he asked. From the last time the parade was held a lot of businesses have changed hands so views may have changed.

I was also advised that the police had advised against, however Rayleigh and other areas have a parade maybe which roads are used might reduce the risks.

Like all the events in Leigh they rely on volunteers, I believe that with the support of the residents we could get volunteers to marshal the route. Even though I say it myself having Leigh Lions outside the front helped make it a success.

I therefore would like to ask that a meeting takes place with the shop keepers, police, SCC, LTC and residents to fully investigate the viability for next year and the future years and the official outcome shared with the residents.'

Item 8 Mosaic

The Clerk has circulated the details and quote for the mosaic to be laid in the Library Gardens. It has already been agreed that the Council will support this project with CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding. At present the offer is for a donation of £5,000. However, as the Council does have quite a large sum of CIL sitting in reserves, she would recommend that the Council puts the remainder of the funding towards the project so that it is all paid for by the Council. This would make a total of £8,000 net. The Clerk asks the committee to discuss this and decide on next steps.

Item 9 Flea Market

Cllr C Mulroney will talk to this item.

Item 10 Old Town Buoys

Below is an email received from Cllr P Wexham in regard to the two Old Town Buoys.

The Clerk asks the committee to discuss the request and decide on any actions to be taken.

'On Leigh the Council is there to do the things Southend cannot do.

In the Old Town are two buoys and anchors & this comes under street furniture from Southend. I doubt they will carry out work on these items for financial reasons but can LTC ask that they be repainted or at least the Red buoy which looks awful. If they are left for too long, they will need to be shotblasted but if they are repainted it will make the area look good for the summer season rather than just rundown through neglect. So, if Southend say they cannot afford it can we look to budget for the work to be done.

Mikes boatyard did them last time.'

Item 11 Café

The Clerk will talk to this item.