



BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE

INTERIM ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT - 2022/2023

This report is produced at the request of the Leader of the Council to be tabled at the Cabinet meeting scheduled for the 7th December 2022.

Four meetings of BTAC have taken place within the current municipal year at the time of this interim report being tabled through Cabinet.

Schedule of meetings:

- **19 May 2022** – took place as scheduled,
- **7 July 2022** – *this meeting was cancelled as inqurate at 6.45pm,*
- **10 August 2022** – this meeting replaced the above to enable decisions to be made,
- **8 September 2022** – *this meeting was adjourned on the night due to the death of Queen Elizabeth the same evening,*
- **20 September 2022** – this is the reconvened meeting following the adjournment,
- **3 November 2022** – took place as scheduled.

A breakdown of each meeting follows identifying the business of each meeting and where applicable, decisions made.

Regular bi-monthly financial statements are received throughout the schedule of meetings with the last financial statement appended to the rear of this report for information.

BTAC Meeting – 19 May 2022:

This was the first meeting of the municipal year which saw Councillor Paul Goodale re-elected as Chairman and Councillor Stephen Woodliff re-elected as Vice Chairman.

Item 1. Transported Arts

Committee received representation from a member of Transported Arts who provided a brief history of their activity within the town which included working alongside the schools and charitable organisations, together with their aspirations moving forward for the Borough and their immediate and long term intentions in respect of providing events and extended arts for the residents.

There was no recommendation but the representation was warmly received by all members and their intentions supported for the future.

BTAC Meeting – 10 August 2022:

This meeting replaced the inquorate meeting originally scheduled for 7 July 2022.

Item 1. Installation of 4.No Changing Place Toilets

Committee supported and approved as per both recommendations within the report.

Item 2. Central Park Play Area

This report referenced the BTAC site visit to Central Park on the morning of the original scheduled meeting on the 7 July 2022. It was agreed that a Member Working Group would be convened to look at all the options discussed during the site visit and return a report with full costings for moving forward with a refurbishment programme site.

Item 3. BTAC Operatives Update

Regular update reporting on the workload of the BTAC operatives. It was agreed that there appeared to be a blurring of certain areas as to whether they were BTAC or Council responsibility and a report was requested which would evidence base all BTAC responsibilities and ensure any grey areas of responsibility were addressed. Members all agreed the report noting it would address concerns they had in respect of how the towns' residents' precept was actually spent and on who and would be incorporated within the constitution and terms of reference.

During the work programme item at the end of this meeting the Chairman referenced a letter he had received in May which he had intended to table at the July meeting but that meeting had been inquorate.

The letter from Christmas in Boston advised BTAC that they would not be accepting the £5,000 allocation of BTAC funding for the current year to assist them with their provision of Christmas Lights. The Deputy Chief Executive – Growth together with the Deputy Leader subsequently addressed the meeting seeking a reallocation of the refused £5,000, to go into supporting a tendering process for the provision of Christmas Lights. The Committee agreed the reallocation of the funding into the tendering process for Christmas Lights.

BTAC Meeting – 20 September 2022 *reconvened from 8 September 2022*

Item 1 Central Park Security Measures

Committee agreed to continue the funding for the locking of the park for a further 12 month period at a cost of £16,500 + VAT.

It further agreed to simplify the opening and closing times:

- 0530 – 2200 until British Summer Time ends Sunday 30 October 2022
- 0530 – 1800 until British Summer Time begins 26 March 2023

Item 2 Funding Proposal for BTAC Events during the 2023 /24 Financial Year

Committee agreed to Option 1 within the report with the addition of all the missing events from option 2 to be included therein at a cost of £56,500.

All members recognised the need to continue to provide free events over the forthcoming year and in particular family events.

BTAC Meeting – 3 November 2022:

Item 1. BTAC Play Area Improvements

The report on the outcomes of the working group identified improvements across the varying play areas to go out to tender with the following resolutions and cost estimates agreed:

Central Park

Cost to BTAC – £68,500

- Remove all play equipment on toddler side play area as far as the Spider net,
- Take up surfacing of that area, level area, lay turf to that area and install 4 picnic benches on grass area.
- Re-instate the giraffe, car and donkey onto small grass area
- Install new equipment of Water Lilies four way springer and a double horse springer or similar.
- Install on opposite side of play area a Junior Fairy Tale unit on grass area or similar
- Remove 5 benches running along pathway and concrete flags, make good ground and install 3 steel benches.
- Install new outdoor gym equipment (following a separate tender exercise and funding allocation).

St. Johns

Cost to BTAC – £9,000

- Install a 3 piece section ship comprising of Stern, Crow's nest and Bow or similar.
- Boston Big Local have granted £25,000 towards this project

Garfits Lane

Cost through S106 contribution – £14,000

- Install two concrete table tennis tables onto new tarmac area, or similar.

Woodville Road

Cost to BTAC – £27,000

- Replacement of Pirate Ship or similar, following vandalism and subsequent removal of previous Boston Big Local funded pirate ship. Total cost estimate £47,000 with £20,000 to be drawn from the Insurance Reserve.

Item 2 Update Financial Statement - BTAC Cost Analysis

This Financial Statement is attached for information only as is subject to change in light of decisions made.

The Cost Analysis identifying charging to BTAC to be broken down across service areas and returned to the February meeting alongside the Budget.