

**MILLENNIUM SUB COMMITTEE  
5 JULY 1999**

Present: Councillors, Egan (Chairman), Barnard  
Blatchford, Fawcett, Flood, Good, Mrs Keene  
and Mrs Pile

Also Present: A Scorer (Bracknell Town Council)

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 6 April 1999 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2. Urgent Items of Business under Standing Order No. 7**

The Chairman gave notice that he had agreed to the addition of an item of urgent business to the agenda for the meeting. This concerned a proposal to enhance the Bracknell Forest Festival in the Year 2000. An urgent decision was required in order that recommendations could be made to the Strategy and Policy Committee at its meeting on 14 July 1999.

**3. Bracknell Festival: Celebrating the Millennium**

The Director of Leisure Services reported on a proposal to enhance the Bracknell Festival, organised by South Hill Park, in the Year 2000. The Director of South Hill Park described the proposals which were intended to herald Bracknell Forest Borough Council's commitment to the arts and the future of the Borough; produce an air of excitement, expectation and enjoyment for all ages in celebrating the Millennium; reinforce the position of South Hill Park Arts Centre as an innovative, caring and enjoyable facility of relevance for Borough residents and to support and promote the arts centre as it progresses through its renovation and upgrade. The proposal was divided into three parts, the first being a moving celebration with workshops the outcome being a colourful, joyous procession created by local people for their community and held in three separate local areas. The second part would involve either creating a three-day event, taking place between 22-24 June or a more intense one-day event on 24 June. Either option would involve providing static performances, walk-about artists and the finale including the three procession groups, created by the earlier stage. The final part would build on the existing success of the Bracknell Festival and the extra funding would allow UK and internationally famous artists to participate and create an event worthy of the Millennium tag.

In discussing the proposal, the Director of Leisure Services reminded members of their previous decision to allocate a sum of £2,000 for each parish/town council on a matched funding basis to support local Millennium events.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (i) Strategy and Policy Committee support the Partnership Proposal developed by South Hill Park to create a greatly enhanced Bracknell Festival in 2000 and consider how funding could be made available to allow preparations to proceed and that the funding only be used to create new and enhanced opportunities within the Bracknell Festival;
- (ii) the Director of Leisure Services be given delegated authority to approve and release the funding up a maximum of £50,000 as the event progresses and
- (iii) Strategy and Policy Committee release the £12,000 requested in respect of an allocation of £2,000 for each parish/town on a matched funding basis to support local Millennium events.

**4. Liaison and Support for the Millennium (Item 1)**

The Head of Policy Development reported on progress to date in the dissemination and co-ordination of information regarding Millennium celebrations throughout the Borough. Particular attention was drawn to the Millennium seminars and work being undertaken to deliver a joint programme enabling groups to access grants for projects to mark or celebrate the Millennium. An edition of the Town and Country would be produced involving young people from schools and youth and community centres in Bracknell Forest. The intention was that the edition would look forward to the next Millennium from the point of view of young people and allow them to explore what life in the twenty first century in Bracknell Forest would mean for them.

The Director of Education reported on a recent visit he had made to the Millennium Dome and advised the Sub Committee that each Local Education Authority would be invited to spend a day at the Dome during which they would be given the opportunity to present the story of their Community.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**5. Millennium Keepsake for Children (Item 2)**

The Director of Education reported on a proposal to provide all school children in Bracknell Forest with a gift to celebrate the Millennium.

The Director of Education had assessed the suitability of gifts available to be presented to school children and proposed a number of criteria, as detailed in the report, which would have to be satisfied for such an exercise to be deemed worthwhile. Of the items available the one deemed most suitable was a "Millennium Keepsake for Children of the World". This is a specially presented edition of one of the books of the New Testament particularly suitable for school-aged children. A number of different versions were available appealing to both primary and secondary aged pupils. The promotion of the gift to primary school children would include a free Millennium Candle torch.

As well as being specific to the Millennium itself the gift could be distributed to coincide with the introduction of the Borough Council's new religious education syllabus. Some Members of the Sub Committee were concerned that receipt of such a gift could offend some families not of the Christian faith and suggested that the Director of Education write to those families involved enquiring whether they would

wish their child to receive the book. An alternative gift could then be provided for any child whose parents did not wish them to receive the gift. It was also suggested that the Independent Schools in the Borough be given the opportunity to purchase the gift at the discounted rate.

**RESOLVED** that the gift of a book “A Millennium Keepsake for the Children of the World” be presented to children at schools managed by Bracknell Forest Borough Council subject to the Director of Education ascertaining whether those families not of the Christian faith would wish to receive a copy; and that the keepsake be made available for general purchase through the Borough’s libraries should this be feasible.

**6. Street Naming (Item 3)**

The Director of Planning advised the Sub Committee that, following the decision to consult on the proposal to rename the road between Bracknell and Sandhurst “Millennium Way”, objections had been received and it was being proposed that the renaming should not proceed.

Whilst noting the reasoning behind the suggestion the Sub Committee considered that part of the road should still be renamed and asked Officers to continue to investigate the possibility.

**RESOLVED** that Officers investigate the suggestion that part of the road linking Bracknell and Sandhurst, or some other road, be renamed Millennium Way.

**7. Items submitted for Information**

The Sub Committee received and noted the following items submitted for information only:

A Night to Remember and Thames Valley Youth Games 1999.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.05pm.

**CHAIRMAN**