

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AND MILLENNIUM SUB COMMITTEE**  
**22 JULY 1997**

Present: Councillor Blatchford (Chairman)  
Councillors Barnard, Good, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes,  
Mrs Keene, Onions and Wheaton  
Town Councillors Mills and Mrs Wheaton  
Mrs B Rumbold - Clerk to Bracknell Town  
Mrs V Nowroz - Princess Square Manager

Also present: Councillor North

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 23 January 1997 were approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Christmas 1997 (Item 1)**

The Sub Committee received a report on proposals for the Christmas light switch-on ceremony and late night trading evenings for Christmas 1997. The Town Centre Development Manager reported that twenty retailers would be prepared to open for the first late night trading night on the 20 November to coincide with the Princess Square Christmas light switch-on ceremony. The switch-on ceremony in Charles Square could also be held on the same night to provide a co-ordinated event. The Sub Committee considered the need to co-ordinate arrangements for the two ceremonies through the Town Centre Development Manager and the Princess Square Centre Manager. It was noted that some funding could come from the Town Centre Development Manager's budget if necessary.

The Sub Committee considered the proposed arrangements for the switch-on ceremony in Charles Square as detailed in the Officer's report and considered a range of community groups that could be involved.

The competition for local primary school children to design a new cover for the carol service programme would be run on the same basis as last year's competition with three prizes for the three separate winners. The Sub Committee considered the idea of developing a schools competition, possibly in the form of a carol competition, noting that the Town Centre Development Manager had written to local schools asking for their views on this matter.

The Town Centre Development Manager reported that a Christmas guide could be produced this year to include details of Town Centre Christmas activities. It was considered that the majority of the cost of producing the guide could be met by sponsors and advertising.

**RECOMMENDED** that:

- (i) approval be given to the arrangements for the official switching-on ceremony to take place as detailed in the report, and that
- (ii) the ceremony should take place on Thursday 20 November 1997.

5. **Christmas Carol Concert. (Item 2)**

The Sub Committee considered the arrangements for the Christmas carol concert and noted that it would be held on 14 December 1997 at Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre. It would again be organised in conjunction with the South Berkshire Music Centre.

**RECOMMENDED** that;

- (i) the following charges be approved for the concert:

Adult	£3.00
Junior/OAPs/Unemployed	£1.50

- (ii) that the Acting Borough Leisure Officer report back to the next meeting of the Sub Committee regarding an assessment of the best approach to funding the carol concert in future years.

6. **Christmas Festivity Lighting. (Item 3)**

The Sub Committee considered a report giving details of the Christmas festivity lighting currently used in the town centre and the need to maintain and improve the current stock over the next few years. It was noted that the Parish and Town Council could write to the Town Centre Development Manager with a request for Christmas lighting in their own areas.

**RECOMMENDED** that:

- (i) approval be given in principal to an increase in festivity lighting subject to funding over the next two years;
- (ii) that the Leisure Services Committee be requested to consider the proposals for additional festive lighting and include funding from the Leisure Services budgets for 1998 to 2000 to complete the programme of festive lighting for the Millennium.

7. **Role of the Christmas Festivities and Millennium Sub Committee. (Item 4)**

Further to the meeting of the Committee held in January 1997 at which it had been requested that the Town Centre Development Manager should consider ways of work developing the Sub Committee's links with the Town Centre Forum and hence encouraging more participation from representatives of the traders within the town in Christmas and Millennium issues. The Sub Committee considered a report regarding the remit reporting line and structure of the Sub committee. It was noted that the Leisure Services Committee Focus Group to be held on 5 August 1997 had been tasked with assessing at the Terms of Reference and Officer Delegations of the Leisure Services Committee and its Sub Committees including the Christmas Festivities and Millennium Sub Committee. The Sub Committee considered that the views of the Parish and Town Councils, should be sought regarding representation on the Sub Committee and that those views should be forwarded to the Leisure Services Focus Group to be held on 6 August 1997.

8. **Initial Thinking on the Millennium. (Item 5)**

The Sub Committee received a report giving details of ideas that had been raised regarding events and celebrations for the Millennium, to be used as a basis for discussion. In addition to those ideas detailed in the report the following were suggested:

- (i) the establishment of a Millennium garden, park or arboretum with idea of a tree to be planted by the family of the first child born after the Millennium commencement of;
- (ii) a fireworks display;
- (iii) the use of lighting on local buildings involving the multi-national companies within the Borough;

- (iv) using August 1999, the fiftieth anniversary of the designation of Bracknell as a new town as the start point for festivities;
- (v) arranging events on and after the 31 December 1999 to mark the start of the Millennium year;
- (vi) use of the town twinning links;
- (vii) using visual lighting of the sky from all Parish areas either by bonfires, search lights or mortars.

**RECOMMENDED** that the ideas as detailed in the report and those suggested by the Sub Committee be noted and that the Town Centre Development Manager be requested to develop the ideas and bring a report back to the next meeting of the Sub Committee taking on board any views submitted by the Parish and Town Councils.

9. **Millennium Project - Feature Lighting in Bracknell Town Centre. (Item 6)**

Further to the presentation to the Council on the Croydon Lighting Project held on 21 July 1997, the Sub Committee considered the possibility of using feature lighting within Bracknell town centre in order to mark the Millennium. It was considered that a scheme to light town centre buildings permanently and thus improve amenity lighting would stand in its own right as an attraction and would be beneficial to the night time environment of the town centre as well marking the Millennium with a celebration of light. It was noted that most of the funding for the Croydon project had been received from sponsorship and from the Millennium Commission.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- (i) approval be given in principal to the promotion of feature lighting scheme for Bracknell town centre as a Millennium project;
- (ii) that funding be identified to the sum of £5,000 from this years budgets to enable the feasibility of a lighting scheme to be investigated; and
- (iii) subject to the necessary budget being identified, that authority be given to the Borough Engineer & Surveyor in conjunction with the Borough Planning Officer to carry out feasibility work into the scope and nature of a possible Millennium lighting project and its funding through consultation with the Town Centre Sub Committee and local businesses.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and concluded at 7.20pm

**CHAIRMAN**