

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HERITAGE, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

31 JANUARY 2017

REFERENCE FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

1. **LAND AT GORE COURT ROAD**

- 1.1 Members will be aware that a referred decision from Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee was taken by Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 26 October 2016 and the land at Gore Court Road was declared surplus to operational requirements.
- 1.2 On 14 December 2016 the Policy and Resources Committee considered the Report of the Director of Finance and Business Improvement on Land at Gore Court Road to agree to the disposal of a strip of Senacre Recreation Ground and part of the boundary hedgerow. This minor realignment of the road was considered necessary to enable access to the "Land North of Bicknor Wood" development site.
- 1.3 At that meeting the Committee requested that a covenant be agreed that would ensure a replacement native hedgerow be provided six months in advance of removal of the existing hedgerow with details to be submitted to and approved by the local Planning Authority.
- 1.4 In addition to the covenant, to ensure that the wildlife currently inhabiting the existing hedgerow were protected during their migration to the new hedgerow that a semi-natural buffer be implemented.

2. **RECOMMENDED:**

- 2.1 That the Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee be recommended to consider the implementation of a semi-natural buffer within the Senacre Recreation Ground bounding the new hedgerow which would increase its value for wildlife and long term protection.