

COMMITTEE: NORTH LUTON AREA BOARD

DATE: 7th MARCH 2012

SUBJECT: PETITION ON SELLS 7th SCOUT GROUP

REPORT BY: HEAD OF FIXED ASSETS

CONTACT OFFICER: ROGER KIRK 548246

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL

COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL

CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING

OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ICKNIELD

PURPOSE

1. To appraise the Board of developments regarding the Sells 7th Scout Group tenancy of premises in Birdsfoot Lane

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. North Luton Area Board is recommended to note and comment upon the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND

3. The Sells 7th Scout Group have been served notice under the terms of their lease which will expire on 01.03.13. The Council has proposed a substantial increase in future rent in line with the Council's charging policy, which seeks to achieve fair market rent for all leases of property owned by the Council.

REPORT

4. Several meetings have been held with representatives of the Scouts which have resulted in the following.
 - (a) An extension of the lease until 30.06.13 at current rent to allow discussions to continue.
 - (b) A 'without prejudice' offer being made to sell the property to the Scouts for a fair market price. This is being considered by the Scouts.
 - (c) The Scouts appointing Kirkby Diamond as their agents both in terms of lease renewal and potential purchase.
 - (d) Ongoing discussions between the Council & Kirkby Diamond.
 - (e) A scheme being developed, contingent on the Council progressing the development of an affordable housing scheme in the immediate vicinity, which could see the construction of a new facility for the Scouts in a different location but still adjacent to Birdsfoot Lane.
5. A further meeting with the Scouts is scheduled for 18.03.13 to progress matters.