

## **Report Purpose:**

South Park, 'Park Hub'

## **Author:**

Town Clerk

## **Updates**

Cheshire East Council has been receptive to the Park Hub concept presented by Macclesfield Town Council. MTC has passed over the work undertaken to date, including the investigations and surveys completed in connection with the previous pavilion proposal. Discussions will continue with Cheshire East Council as the proposal is developed further.

There has been some misinformation online and through social media regarding the project. It is important to clarify the background and the circumstances that led to the original proposal not progressing.

Macclesfield Town Council approved the Heads of Terms in 2020 and has continued to work towards developing the project. However, even in 2025 and 2026, further information was still coming to light regarding the existing pavilion and the wider park infrastructure. These matters slowed down the timelines and had implications for the scope of works and ultimately contributed to increased costs, which were reflected in the tender responses received.

The Council's key deadline was the date by which the loan funding needed to be drawn down. At that point, however, there was no approved contractor and no fixed project price. Given the significant variation in the tender prices received and the uncertainty over the final cost, the Council could not, in good faith, draw down the loan without having greater certainty over the project's financial position.

The decision was therefore taken not to proceed with the project on the basis of the information and costs then available. This should not, however, be viewed as the Town Council abandoning the Park Hub proposal. The Town Council's intention remains to deliver the Park Hub and to fund the project from its reserves, subject to the final scheme, costs and funding arrangements being agreed.

The work undertaken to date has provided valuable information for the development of the Park Hub concept, and this has now been shared with Cheshire East Council as discussions continue.