

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Councillors T Morris
 A Dodwell
 K Ferguson
 F Kharawala (Vice-Chair)
 C Palmer
 B J Spurr
 G Tubb
 E Wallace
 R D Berry (Chair)

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio, Town Clerk
 V Cannon (LLTC Head of Cultural & Economic
 Services)
 S Hughes (Community Engagement Manager,
 Central Bedfordshire Council)
 Councillor T Stock (Deputy Executive Member
 for Health & Corporate Resources, Central
 Bedfordshire Council)
 M Jahn (Committee Officer)
 G Borelli (Chair, LB First)
 Bob Chandler (LB Connect)
 Ms S Mortimer, Leighton Buzzard Engineering
 and Construction Centre
 Councillor G Perham

Members of the public: 5
Members of the press 0

252/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Tricia Humber, Community Forum Steering Group.

253/LLP DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

254/LLP QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 minutes per person; maximum 15 minutes)

A member of the public raised a question regarding the temporary closure and possible demolition of (footpath 68) the bridge over the railway line and what progress had been made by Central Bedfordshire Council to engage with Network Rail. It was confirmed that Central Bedfordshire Council cannot act at present but are not aware of a permanent closure of this footpath.

A question was also raised about the delay to works to the High Street pavements. It was confirmed the work was still on-going and governed by when the Gas Board would complete their repairs. The Town Clerk would ask Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Officer, to compile a list of relevant officers at Central Bedfordshire Council so direct contact could be made with them.

A resident and shop owner in the town asked why the land behind Wilkinsons had been cleared and were there plans to develop this land. It was confirmed there were no plans for this site and the clearing had been completed by Countryside Access. A further question was raised regarding the data being gathered for the multi-storey and Duncombe Drive car parks. It was confirmed this was still on-going and should be available at the April 2019 meeting.

A representative from the group Freddie and Friends Sunshine Stop asked if the Committee could suggest any community facility where they could hold their group sessions for children, adults with additional needs and their families. Ms S Mortimer, Central Bedfordshire College, suggested contacting the Leighton Buzzard College to ascertain if they could facilitate this.

255/LLP **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 29 November 2018.

Item 242/LLP Changes to Bus Routes – the Town Clerk confirmed he had written to the Bus Company and no reply had been received to date.

Item 244/LLP Business Support and Beds Employments and Skills (BESS) – a request was made to note in the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2018 that although 19 enquiries had been made for commercial accommodation for small to medium sized businesses in Leighton Buzzard none had been converted.

Item 247/LLP Business Support updates – the problem with the multi-storey car park number plate recognition system had been resolved.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 29 November 2018 be approved as a correct record and be signed accordingly.

256/LLP LEIGHTON BUZZARD ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION CENTRE

The Committee received a verbal presentation from Ms S Mortimer, of Central Bedfordshire College, on the Leighton Buzzard Engineering and Construction Centre. The College provided a vocational route to learning offering high-end engineering and the opportunity to progress to higher education through Level II, Level III, HNC/HND and Apprenticeship programmes. They work closely with local schools and employers to provide an engineering pathway with day release to gain a BTEC in Engineering which would be equivalent to three and a half A levels and the possibility of progressing to University or into work.

A question was raised to ascertain whether other vocational courses could be offered, for example business studies to attract students to the college. The college does not want to duplicate the school curriculum but have brought in IT, teacher education/teacher support courses and Mathematics and English options.

The Committee thanked Ms S Mortimer for her informative presentation and looked forward to seeing further development of the College.

RESOLVED to note the information.

257/LLP COMMUNITY FORUM UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update from Sarah Hughes, on behalf of Tricia Humber, Community Forum Steering Group, confirming information from the Highways analysis was still being gathered and should be available and shared with the Community by the meeting scheduled for 6 June 2019.

RESOLVED to note the information.

258/LLP BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATES

The Committee received a brief update from LB Connect confirming all was going well and members of the group had received direct business of £136,000. The group were now working towards the Business Networking Event due to be held in April 2019.

An update was also given by LB First thanking Leighton-Linslade Town Council for their support with a successful Christmas Festival which received positive feedback from businesses and members of the public.

Also LB First Group suggested under the High Street Improvement Fund for regeneration of Town Centres potential for a Task and Finish Group to be formed to discuss plans for the town centre in the near future.

RESOLVED to note the information.

259/LLP STANDING ITEMS

- (a) Enabling Delivery in L-L – no update from Central Bedfordshire Council on Land South of the High Street.

Councillor Palmer suggested a Neighbourhood Plan be drawn up for the land South of the High Street to bring together all interested stakeholders as this could provide a positive outcome for the community of Leighton Buzzard.

- (b) Taxis - Jo Borthwick was in discussion with Highways re using North Street as a location for the taxi rank. This dialogue was on-going. The Committee agreed that the 4 taxis were not the problem, but the additional taxis were causing congestion and pollution within the area. It was suggested that enforcement should be the first area investigated looking at the licensing of the taxis parking outside of the rank. The number of taxis also caused pollution within the area at the top of the High Street and this should be followed up as detrimental to the surrounding area.

RECOMMENDATION from the Partnership Committee to Central Bedfordshire Council as licensing authority to act on enforcement of 4 vehicles only at the taxi rank and to enforce movement on of taxis over this number.

- (c) Anti-social behaviour & Homelessness – no update
- (d) Market Town Regeneration Fund – the final three electronic signs have now been installed and liaison with building owners is underway for the architectural lighting scheme.

RESOLVED to note the information.

260/LLP **TAXI RANK**

This item was withdrawn.

261/LLP **JOINT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received a presentation from Councillor T Stock, Deputy Executive Member for Health and Corporate Resources (Stronger Communities), Central Bedfordshire Council, on the proposed revised Terms of Reference for Committee, arising from Central Bedfordshire Council's review of the Joint Committees.

After discussion the Committee agreed some amendments were needed to the document and proposed the final document come back to consultation between the Chair, Vice Chair of the Partnership Committee and the Town Clerk. Any proposed changes would be shared with the Partnership Committee for its consideration.

RESOLVED to note the information.

262/LLP **COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN**

The Committee received and gave consideration to the objectives and work plan for the municipal year 2018-2019. The findings of the car park survey would be added to the next meeting on 11 April 2019 and Devolving Services would be deferred.

RESOLVED to note the report.

263/LLP **BUDGET REPORT**

The Committee received a brief report regarding the current year budget to date.

RESOLVED to note the report

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2019.

Chair

11 APRIL 2019