

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
MONDAY 6 JULY 2020 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors J M Freeman – in the Chair
 A Dodwell
 J Silverstone
 F Kharawala
 G Perham
 S Jones (substituting for K Cursons)
 S Owen (substituting for A Gray)
 D Bowater
 D Scott

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 S Sandiford (Head of Democratic and Central
 Services)
 I Haynes (Head of Grounds & Environmental
 Services)
 S Lakin (Strategic Transport Manager, Central
 Bedfordshire Council)
 Cllr V Harvey
 Cllr P Snelling

Members of the public: 9

Chair Councillor M Freeman introduced the meeting and gave an overview of the remote meeting protocol.

96/P APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received and were accepted from Councillors K Cursons (substituted by Councillor S Jones) and A Gray (substituted by Councillor S Owen).

97/P 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.

Councillor Bowater declared an interest as a substitute member of the Central Bedfordshire Development Management Committee and would abstain from voting on planning applications for discussion.

98/P QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A long term resident and member of the public spoke in support of the recent pedestrianisation trial of the High Street and the recently completed improvements on Meadway to facilitate pedestrian and cycle access to the Vandyke Road schools. It was felt important to continue with the improvement/development of the "Scholar's Way" Green Wheel route between

the two upper schools, particularly from Hockliffe Road to Woodman Close. It was also important to ensure pedestrian and cycle access to the town from the new housing developments at Chamberlains Barn and Clipstone Park.

A resident and representative of Buzzcycles spoke of the opportunity presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent Government funding to convert those people who had enjoyed more cycling during lockdown to committed long term cyclists. As set out in the Green Wheel, a wider network was needed to facilitate cycling into and across the town, as well as into the surrounding countryside. More cycle parking was requested. It was hoped that the Town Council would be supportive of any Green Wheel initiatives across its land.

Members of the public were thanked for attending and for their comments.

99/P MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee received the minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee meeting held on 11 March 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee meeting held 11 March 2020 be approved as a correct record and would be signed at a later date, when safe to do so.

The Committee received and noted the decisions made during the period 20 March – 30 June 2020 in accordance with the decision making process agreed by Council on 20 March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions which prevented meetings taking place during that time.

100/P TRANSPORT MATTERS

By invitation, S Lakin of Central Bedfordshire Council attended the meeting primarily to give a presentation on the revised Green Wheel but also to provide an update on transport schemes arising from recent new Government funding.

The Committee received a report summarising the Government scheme, which had been announced on 23 May 2020 to protect and increase transport services, level up infrastructure and regenerate local economies. The Emergency Active Travel Fund would support local transport authorities in producing walking and cycling facilities in two phases: initial funding for the installation of temporary projects arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and a second phase of funding to support the creation of longer term projects. For Central Bedfordshire Council, the final allocation of phase 1 funding was £223,454 and indicative funding for phase 2 amounted to £800,000.

Mr Lakin advised that the initial tranche of funding, for the rapid introduction of pop-up facilities, had been received and that a number of projects were underway across the Central Bedfordshire area. Leighton-Linslade had benefitted from the funding through increased pedestrian capacity into town from Hockliffe Street and Bridge Street, the temporary pedestrianisation of the High Street and a timed closure of Bassett Road, at the request of Mary Bassett Lower School, to assist with social distancing for pupils. The success of those measures would be monitored and would be key to accessing the remainder of the funding.

In terms of the next phase of projects starting this Autumn, Central Bedfordshire councillors and town councils across Central Bedfordshire had been invited to share intelligence as to where in their locale, social distancing was proving problematic. The focus would remain on measures that enabled people to walk or cycle for local journeys, especially where previously their trip would have used a passenger or public transport service.

Mr Lakin gave the Committee a preview of a presentation due to be given to the Green Wheel working group. The Green Wheel had originally been developed in 2008/09 and had been followed by a Green Infrastructure Plan in 2014. The working group had been updating the plan over recent months and the revised draft had previously been presented to the Ouzel Valley Park steering group and the Partnership Committee.

The Green Wheel updated plan aimed to link publicly accessible routes and green spaces in and around the town, with an inner rim (around the town centre) and an outer rim (leading to surrounding countryside) linked by a series of “spokes” (linear paths and corridors). Measures to improve existing routes were ongoing and a particular focus was the development of new routes from the new housing developments, as well as improving access to schools, for example the Scholars Way spoke leading between the two upper schools.

A number of specific questions were asked and answered regarding particular routes including Woodman Close, Hockliffe Road, Northcourt, Parsons Close, Bunkers Lane and access from the new Roman Gate development through to the retail park on Grovebury Road. The possible extension of the current road closure on Billington Road was discussed but would be partly dependant on other highways works. The point was raised that traffic flow on Grovebury Road was affected by the number of lorries which stopped outside premises along the road.

A question was raised regarding partnership working as set out in the 2011 Central Bedfordshire Cycling Strategy. Liaison with cycling groups and forums across Central Bedfordshire was ongoing.

A question was raised regarding the potential presented by the Government funding for more radical change, such as reallocation of road space and it was suggested that the Town Council give this greater consideration. It was noted that the town plan for 2011-2016, Big Plan II, had contained a list of cycling related aspirations. These aspirations now formed part of a Town Council “partnership lobby list” due to be endorsed by the Council at a future meeting, to ensure they were not lost.

RESOLVED to note the report and the presentation.

Mr Lakin was thanked for attending the meeting.

101/P PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee reviewed applications received up until 3 July 2020.

RESOLVED to recommend to Central Bedfordshire Council that no objection be made to application reference CB/20/01913/VOC (Apex Park, Formerly Part Clipstone Park) but the Town Council would encourage by way of legal agreement a meaningful contribution toward footpath and cycling improvements along this part of Leighton Road, Stanbridge.

RESOLVED to recommend to Central Bedfordshire Council that objection be made to application reference CB/20/01869 (1 Leedon Furlong) on the following grounds: that the proposal would by virtue of the size of plot result in a cramped form of development out of keeping with the established character of the area.

RESOLVED to recommend to Central Bedfordshire Council that no objection be made to application reference CB/20/01849/VOC (Land Adjacent Heathlea, Sandy Lane) but the Planning and Transport Committee wishes to endorse the comments made by the Trees and Landscape Officer in so much as the proposal has the propensity to detrimentally impact an existing sycamore tree which is subject to a tree preservation order.

RESOLVED to recommend to Central Bedfordshire Council that objection be made to application reference CB/20/01907 (54 Millstream Way) on the following grounds: The amenity land provides natural relief within this part of the estate. To grant planning permission would result in the loss of said land to the detriment of the original layout for the development.

RESOLVED to recommend to Central Bedfordshire Council that no objection be made to the following planning applications:

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) CB/20/01755/DOC | LEIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL |
| 2) CB/20/01728 | 1 MANOR COURT OLD LINSLADE RD |
| 3) CB/20/01712/LDCP | 30C MENTMORE ROAD, LINSLADE |
| 4) CB/20/01896/DOC | 34 REDWOOD GLADE |
| 5) CB/20/01905 | 25 ST LEONARDS CLOSE |
| 6) CB/20/01910/LDCP | 58 LINWOOD GROVE |
| 7) CB/20/01864 | 22 HIGHFIELD ROAD |
| 8) CB/20/01966 | 5 MOORHOUSE PATH |
| 9) CB/20/01945/LDCP | 5 MELFORT DRIVE, LINSLADE |
| 10) CB/20/01962/NMA | 19 THE MALTINGS |
| 11) CB/20/01921/LDCP | 43 ATTERBURY AVENUE |
| 12) CB/20/01893/LDCP | 74 HOCKLIFFE STREET |
| 13) CB/20/01825 | 93 CAMBERTON ROAD |
| 14) CB/20/02134 | 45 ROUNDEL DRIVE |

102/P INFORMATION ITEMS

No information items had been received.

The meeting closed at 2125 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD 6 JULY 2020.

Chair

22 JULY 2020

DRAFT