

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2013 AT 1930 HOURS

Present : Councillors D Hopkin – CBC (Chair)
 A Dodwell – LLTC
 P Snelling – LLTC (substituting for J M Freeman)
 G Perham (Substituting for S Cotter)
 K Sharer – LLTC
 B Spurr - CBC
 T Brown (CBC Deputy Executive Member for
 Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and
 Economic Development)

Also in attendance: P M P Kingsnorth (Town Clerk)
 J Martindale (Partnership Officer)
 S Hughes (Community Engagement Manager,
 Central Bedfordshire Council)
 G Borrelli (I♥LB)

Members of the Public: 3
Members of the Press: 0

158/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor D Bowater, Councillor A Shadbolt, Councillor S Cotter (substituted by Councillor G Perham), Councillor J M Freeman (substituted by Councillor P Snelling) and B Chandler (LB Connect).

159/LLP DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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.

No declarations of interest were made.

160/LLP DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received.

161/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members of the public expressed concerns over Carnival processions not coming through the High Street and the view that the High Street was neglected with projects such as the Anglia in Bloom judging.

RESOLVED for the Town Clerk to provide feedback regarding the possibility of the Carnival travelling along the High Street.

Members of the public also expressed concern over the approved Grovebury Road retail development and felt that particular Councillors' comments, prior to the decision being made at CBC, let the Community groups and businesses down and also that future relationships with the Community Forum were damaged. The view was expressed that 'quick wins' were needed in relation to signage and that previous work carried out by groups were included in the new Town Centre Signage Strategy.

162/LLP MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Committee received the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 7 February 2013.

The following were noted :

Minute No. 145/LLP – the problem of pigeons in the town centre, particularly around the Market Cross area be included in the work plan.

Minute No. 148/LLP – the recommendation to the Police and Finance Committee that Central Bedfordshire Council be requested to consider gritting of the Duncombe Drive and Library Theatre car parks was not supported as this was a Central Bedfordshire Council function.

Minute No. 148/LLP – the recommendation to the Leisure and Community Committee to consider involvement in the Youth Programme has not yet been considered.

Minute No. 152/LL – the recommendation to the Policy and Finance Committee that the Partnership Committee be delegated authority to expend ALL monies within their budget headings was recommended to Full Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 7 February 2013 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

163/LLP MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND TASK GROUPS

(a) The Committee received the draft minutes of the Big Plan II Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 February 2013.

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Big Plan II Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 February 2013.

(b) The Committee received the draft minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 March 2013.

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 March 2013.

Minute No. 37/EC (Town Marketing) - the Committee considered the recommendation to review the Town Marketing report, consider staffing resources and allocate an appropriate budget in order that the project could be taken forward.

RESOLVED to defer a decision on additional staffing resources until the Town Council staffing restructure has been completed.

164/LLP BUSINESS UPDATE

The I♥LB group advised that some community groups, businesses and residents felt let down by particular Councillors, after the approval of the Grovebury Road retail development. However they would continue to support the Town Council on future developments and assist with spending of Section 106 monies associated with the developments, as well as future Christmas and business events.

RESOLVED for Councillor B Spurr to ask Central Bedfordshire Council Councillor N Young (Portfolio Holder) to contact the I♥LB group to discuss further.

RESOLVED to note the information.

165/LLP CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

The Committee received an update report from Central Bedfordshire Council including information on plans for expansion at Vandyke Upper School, community safety, ongoing roadworks, the streetlight upgrade programme, developments in planning policy and information obtained from the 2011 Census. It was noted that 4YP would be the new Youth Work provider from 1 April 2013.

Central Bedfordshire Council would be holding the next Town and Parish Council Conference on 16 April 2013, to be focussed entirely on Planning.

RESOLVED to note the update report from Central Bedfordshire Council.

166/LLP COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND OBJECTIVES

The Committee received a copy of the Strategic Objectives for 2011-2015 and the Work Plan for 2012-2013.

RESOLVED to note the information.

167/LLP COMMUNITY FORUM

The Committee received a report regarding the first Community Forum held at the Leighton Buzzard Theatre on Saturday 9 February 2013 and Chaired by Andrew Selous MP. It was estimated that in the region of 150 people in total had attended the event and the feedback obtained was positive, with information and suggestions gathered on the topics discussed.

A further meeting of the community group representatives was planned for 27 March 2013, in order to review the first Forum event and make plans for the next Forum event, to take place in the summer. It was suggested that the possibility of Bossard Hall be considered for future events should extra capacity be required.

RESOLVED to note the information.

168/LLP TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Committee received a report regarding the decision taken on 13 December 2012 to support, in principle, the concept of producing a Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan. A meeting held with officers of Central Bedfordshire Council had identified the need for a specification, which would then inform the subsequent tender process. Due to lack of available resource in the short-term, the decision had been taken to appoint a consultant at a cost of £500 to create a draft specification by 22 March 2013.

RESOLVED to note the information and to endorse the decision to hire a consultant to create a draft specification.

169/LLP SUMMER SUNDAYS

The Committee received a report regarding the three Summer Sunday events planned for 2 June 2013, 18 August 2013 and 22 September 2013. The first event would be a Medieval themed day in conjunction with the National Big Lunch event on 2 June and would include medieval entertainment, musicians, a limited number of fairground rides and seating for 800 people in the High Street.

It was anticipated that the August event would focus on the Children's Literary Trail and that the September event was still to be decided. It was requested to include local radio into the events.

RESOLVED to note the information.

170/LLP POP-UP SHOPS

The Committee received a report regarding the possibility of setting up a Pop-Up shop in the town centre. A number of property agents had been contacted regarding potential premises, with one possibility identified in Waterborne Walk. The Town Clerk suggested that a business plan needed to be prepared and the costs fully investigated in order to carry the project forward. It was also noted that Councillor Cotter would work in conjunction with the Town Centre Manager on this project. The Riverside Centre had also been recommended as a possible location.

RESOLVED to note the report and to await a further update.

171/LLP SECTION 106 CONTRIBUTIONS

The Committee was notified that there was the possibility of Section 106 monies relating to the Grovebury Road retail development.

RESOLVED to defer further discussion on this matter until the next Partnership Meeting when further information was available.

172/LLP FAIRTRADE SIGNAGE

The Committee received a formal request from Fairtrade Leighton Buzzard to add a plate denoting "A Fairtrade Town" to the existing town gateway signs, further to the original request to the Partnership Committee in December 2011 and the creation of the Signage Strategy in 2012. Fairtrade Leighton Buzzard was willing to contribute £300 towards the signs.

A rough estimate of costs had been obtained from Bedfordshire Highways at £850 per sign. It was possible that the cost could be less, if some of the existing posts could be re-used rather than replaced with new posts.

RESOLVED that Highways be asked to review their costings with a view to fixing the signs on existing posts.

RESOLVED to match fund the Fairtrade group contribution of £300 towards "A Fairtrade Town" and that an audit of town centre signage and costs be carried out.

173/LLP GREEN GYM FUNDING

The Committee received a report regarding the aspiration to install a green gym facility at Pages Park, in accordance with proposals contained within Big Plan II and in the Parks Masterplanning report for Pages Park and Mentmore Park.

Sport England had been identified as a potential source of grant funding and the Committee was asked to consider allocating up to £10,000 (20% match funding) from the Big Plan Projects budget, to increase the likelihood of a successful outcome to a grant application.

RESOLVED to allocate £10,000 match funding to the Green Gym Application.

174/LLP NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Committee received Policy Briefing P50-13 from the National Association of Local Councils, regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The Committee was asked to consider the recommendation made by the Planning Committee on 20 February 2013: to review the production of a Neighbourhood Plan within the Partnership Committee's Work Plan for 2013-2014.

RESOLVED to note the information and defer further discussion to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 2150 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2013.

Chair

6 JUNE 2013