

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors M Bishop
 S Cotter - Chair
 A Dodwell
 D Hopkin
 A Shadbolt
 P Snelling (substituting for R Goodchild)

Also in attendance J Martindale (Partnership Officer)
 P Griffiths (Acting Market Manager)
 G McKenzie (Central Bedfordshire Council)
 G Borelli (LB First)

Members of the public: 1

74/EC APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor D Bowater, Councillor A Shadbolt, Councillor R Goodchild (substituted by Councillor P Snelling) and M Saccoccio (Acting Town Clerk)

75/EC 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. No declarations were made.

76/EC REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received from Councillors.

77/EC PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

78/EC MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Sub-Committee received the minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 September 2013.

Councillor D Hopkin advised that following 72/EC Riverside Centre, that he would follow up with the Bedfordshire College ready to provide further information regarding the business plan at the next Partnership Committee Meeting on 12th December 2013.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 September 2013 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

79/EC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Sub-Committee received a Work Plan and verbal update from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding activity for 2013-2014.

A discussion arose regarding land availability in and around the Town for further development for businesses and retail and the demand for more space. Garth McKenzie advised it is part of the CBC framework 'Industrial Area Improvement' and will request if they would like to come and present an update on the East Side of the High street to us.

RESOLVED to note the information.

80/EC LOCAL BUSINESS ECONOMY

The Sub-Committee received a document for review and discussion regarding the local business economy. It was suggested that a review be undertaken of the local retail offer through the shops and market, with potential gaps identified. This would highlight any potential areas of duplication and help identify new businesses which would bring something new to the town.

Central Bedfordshire Council provided some research links relating to a retail study done in June 2012 and an Economic Assessment of Bedfordshire in 2013. Councillor Cotter would like this information on a more granular level and relating to Leighton Linlade area. The committee were reminded of Caron Kendalls visit from the Federation of Small Business regarding the Keep Trade local campaign. It was recommended to speak with FSB to see what studies they have done and what tools they have to collate the information. LB First offered their support and assist with a potential retail survey.

RECOMMENDED that the Partnership Officer to speak to FSB and look at possible costs related to delivering the survey with assistance from Central Bedfordshire Council.

RESOLVED to note the report.

81/EC BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT 2014

The Sub-Committee received a report regarding the Business Networking Event to be held in April 2014 and was asked to consider matters such as venue, theme, date and time and marketing strategy.

Overall discussion favoured Astral Park as a venue for the event, however with no guarantee of it being ready and to cater for the numbers it is

suggested on this occasion we outsource to another venue. The partnership officer will look into costs and availability at alternate venues.

It was also favoured that the event be early April prior to the Easter Holidays and the date Thursday 3 April was suggested from 1800-21.00. Then it is suggested a separate Business Open Day be held at Astral park to showcase the venue to local businesses after completion.

RESOLVED to note the report and the Partnership Officer to get a date and venue booked.

82/EC MARKET UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report regarding the street market including performance figures for June-October 2012 and 2013, new traders, short-term projects and the pop-up market initiative.

RESOLVED to Market Manager to increase publicity on the Market Bursary with two still available and to note the report.

83/EC DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to amend meeting frequency to quarterly and that next meetings dates will be 6 February 2014 and 22 May 2014.

The meeting closed at 2110 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2013.

Chair

TBC 2014