

## LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

### LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 1930 HOURS

Present : Councillors            K Janes – CBC (substituting for D Bowater)  
   S Cotter - LLTC  
   D Hopkin – CBC    - in the Chair  
   R Berry – CBC (substituting for A Shadbolt)  
   G Perham – LLTC (substituting for A Dodwell)  
   P Snelling – LLTC  
   B Spurr - CBC  
   N Warren – CBC  
   K Sharer - LLTC

Also in attendance:            M Saccoccio (Acting Town Clerk)  
   J Martindale (Partnership Officer)  
   S Sandiford (Committee Officer)  
   M Penton (Senior Centre Co-ordinator, Astral  
   Park)  
   G Borrelli (LB First)  
   B Chandler (LB Connect)  
   Rev. P. Niemiec (Spokesperson – Community  
   Forum Steering Group)  
   J Bird (Beach Events)  
   J Hawkins (Beach Events)  
   S Hughes (Central Bedfordshire Council)

Members of the Public:        1  
Members of the Press:         0

#### **247/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor A Dodwell (substituted by Councillor G Perham), Councillor A Shadbolt (substituted by Councillor R Berry) and Councillor D Bowater (substituted by Councillor K Janes).

#### **248/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.

#### **249/LLP DISPENSATIONS**

No requests for dispensations had been received.

**250/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

**251/LLP MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Committee received the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 12 December 2013.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 12 December 2013 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.**

**252/LLP TEMPORARY BEACH PROPOSAL**

The Committee received a report regarding the possibility of installing a temporary beach at Parson's Close Recreation Ground for three months during the summer of 2014, as well as a copy of the proposal submitted by Beach Events & Solutions. Two representatives from Beach Events & Solutions attended the meeting to answer any queries.

Considerations detailed in the report included manpower and maintenance costs, health and safety, signage and publicity, litter, aftercare and any potential impact on the Splash & Play facility. The Committee was asked to give consideration to these aspects as well as the potential economic benefit to be derived from an attraction bringing residents and visitors into the heart of the town centre throughout the summer. An additional £22,500 has been included in the 2014-15 budget for the beach proposal and it was recommended that the remaining costs be met from the Economic Development budget.

Representatives from Beach Events & Solutions advised the Committee that the proposals were still fluid and that the final size and specification of the beach would be driven by the Town Council's budget and requirements. The proposed size would be adequate for a full size volleyball court and could also be used for other sporting activities such as three-a-side soccer. The sand would be washed and certificated and could be disinfected as necessary. It was also suitable for use for sand castles/sculptures.

A question was raised regarding potential use of the sand by animals. Beach Events advised this was unlikely to be a problem as long as litter was picked thoroughly every day. Potential vandalism was also raised as a concern, as well as the possibility of cross-contamination to the Splash & Play facility. It was noted that there could be no guarantees but that the design and location of the beach had been determined to reduce the potential impact on the Splash & Play park as much as possible.

Beach Events representatives advised the Committee that in their experience, temporary beach facilities were looked after by the community rather than vandalised and that the beaches generated increased footfall, income, goodwill and fun.

A query was raised as to whether the beach structure could be retained for future use, but this was unlikely as it would be well used during the three month period.

The Committee expressed the hope that the facility would complement the existing Splash & Play park and attract not only residents but visitors into the town centre throughout the summer season.

It was proposed by Councillor K Sharer and seconded by Councillor S Cotter that the recommendations in the report be endorsed. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED to approve the proposal for a temporary beach construction in Parson's Close Recreation Ground for three months during the summer of 2014 and for total funding of up to £30,000 to be allocated from the 2014-2015 Economic Development budget (code 503-4430), to include £20,000 for the build and up to £10,000 for signage, publicity, staffing, events, health & safety and aftercare.**

## **253/LLP MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND TASK GROUPS**

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 6 February 2014.

**RESOLVED to receive the draft minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 6 February 2014.**

Minute reference 89/EC (East of Leighton Linslade Development): the Committee gave consideration to the recommendation to write to Central Bedfordshire Council.

**RESOLVED to write to Central Bedfordshire Council to express disappointment at the lack of Officer attendance at the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting on 6 February 2014 and to request that an officer be present at the next meeting in May 2014.**

Minute Reference 91/EC (Local Business Economy): the Committee gave consideration to the recommendation to support a local business/retail/residential survey to provide key data on the town centre offer. The Chair of the Economic Development Sub-Committee spoke to advise the Committee that essential data was needed regarding why residents did or did not use the town centre and that this information would help inform the town centre enhancement scheme project as well as long term developments in the town centre.

It was recommended by the Committee that the survey should include residents on the outskirts of the town as well as the surrounding villages.

It was proposed by Councillor B Spurr and seconded by Councillor G Perham that the recommendation be approved. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED to support a local business and residential survey and to allocate funding of up to £10,000 from the 2014-2015 Economic Development budget (503-4430).**

#### **254/LLP BUSINESS UPDATE**

G Borrelli, Chair of the LB First group, advised the Committee of a project that the group was working on in conjunction with the Dash Direct bus service to Sandhills. Local businesses were offering incentives and promotions to motivate residents to come in to the town centre by bus. Marketing would be done via an email database and promotions would be changed on a regular basis.

Representatives from LB First would also be attending the Events Sub-Committee meeting on 17 February to start discussing ideas for the 2014 Christmas event.

B Chandler, Chair of the LB Connect group, advised that group members continued to report an upturn in business, to the point where some members were too busy to attend the networking meetings. LB Connect looked forward to working with the Town Council to organise the Spring Business Networking event.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

#### **255/LLP COMMUNITY FORUM**

The Committee received a report with an update on the Community Forum event to be held on 22 March 2014. Spokesperson for the steering group, Rev. P Niemiec, spoke to the Committee regarding plans for the event, which would be themed "Healthy, wealthy and wise".

It was requested whether elected Members would give a brief presentation at the event highlighting the positive developments which had arisen from the 2013 Forum and offering an insight into current/future projects. It was suggested that a working group be formed to create a presentation/display boards showing outcomes from the 2013 Community Forum event.

Councillors D Hopkin and B Spurr confirmed they would be willing to attend and speak at the event.

**RESOLVED to note the update regarding the Community Forum event to be held on 22 March 2014 and for Councillors to give a brief presentation of the positive outcomes arising from the 2013 Community Forum event.**

#### **256/LLP TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY PLAN**

The Committee received a report outlining the status of the projects agreed as part of the Town Centre Delivery Plan, including the High Street enhancement scheme, improvements to the alleyways and mews, lighting, signage strategy and car parking study.

The Committee was advised that an additional contribution of £80,000 from the Local Area Transport Plan budget would be made towards the High Street enhancement scheme.

The Committee questioned the status of the development plans relating to the south side of the High Street and requested that an update be brought to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

#### **257/LLP COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES, WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2013-2014**

The Committee received a copy of the objectives and work plan for 2013-2014, along with a projects report detailing status and remaining budget for Economic Development, Town Centre Management and Big Plan Projects initiatives.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

#### **258/LLP COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES, WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2014-2015**

The Committee received a report detailing the Committee's budget for 2014-2015 and was reminded that at its meeting on 29 April 2013, the Town Council delegated authority to the Partnership Committee to expend all monies within their budget headings (i.e. including monies allocated to Big Plan Projects and Town Centre Management).

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

The Committee received a report including suggested Partnership projects for 2014-2015, predominantly from the Economic Development budget.

**RESOLVED to request from Central Bedfordshire Council their Economic Development proposals for 2014-2015, to be presented at the next meeting.**

**RESOLVED to approve the proposed projects and budget funding for 2014-2015, including the National Big Lunch event, Children's Trail activity, town centre/tourism promotion through an upgrade of the Town Council website, summer bunting, Spring Business Networking Event, Community Forum event and signage projects.**

**RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Finance Committee to allocate a further £5,000 from the Central Services Public budget to match fund the project to upgrade the Town Council website.**

#### **259/LLP FUNDING REQUESTS**

(a) The Committee received a request to fund the printing and installation of three large town centre directory posters, to be attached to prominent bus shelters in the town centre.

The Committee suggested that the existing “shopping directory” should include other types of businesses in the town centre, not just retailers. Officers were asked to look into options and bring ideas to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED to approve the expenditure of up to £500 from the 2013-14 Economic Development budget (503-4430) for the printing and installation of three town centre directory posters for the bus shelters.**

(b) The Committee received a request to fund the printing of marketing literature for the new Astral Park sports and community centre from the Big Plan Publications budget (502-4325). Marketing activity would be directed towards local businesses for training/meeting use, community hire, sports/exercise activity and private hire by residents for parties, events and weddings.

It was noted that none of the £6,000 Big Plan Publications budget had been spent as yet during 2013-2014 and that the Astral Park project met several policies and proposals contained within Big Plan II, including provision of new sports facilities, additional football pitches and community meeting space.

It was suggested that local businesses be approached through the networking groups and that business breakfasts could be hosted at the new facility. It was intended that an open day for businesses would be held in May 2014, following the Spring Business Networking Event.

**RESOLVED to:**

- (i) **approve the expenditure of up to £2,000 from the Big Plan Publications budget for the development of marketing material for the Astral Park sports and community facility**
- (ii) **delegate to the Town Clerk authority to approve any further necessary expenditure from this budget code, as appropriate up to a maximum of £6,000.**

## **260/LLP CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE**

The Committee received an update report from Central Bedfordshire Council including information on community safety, leisure, highways, social care and youth work, events and the Troubled Families programme.

The Committee was also verbally advised of works due to take place on the A505 bypass during the summer of 2014 and that although the improvement works at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre had not yet been completed, membership numbers had increased.

The Committee was asked to consider a change to bring the update report from Central Bedfordshire Council to every alternate meeting, rather than to every meeting. This would ensure the information remained dynamic and relevant. It was agreed that this was acceptable as long as any important items were brought to Committee promptly and was suggested that the

relevant Portfolio Holder should then attend the meeting to answer questions directly.

**RESOLVED to note the report and to agree for future reports to be presented at every alternate Partnership Committee meeting.**

#### **261/LLP CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2014-2015**

The Committee received a report regarding meeting dates for the municipal year 2014-2015. A Meeting Calendar had already been endorsed by the Town Council, but several changes were proposed in order to accommodate date clashes and holiday absences.

**RESOLVED to approve the following proposed meeting dates for the 2014-2015 municipal year:**

<b>Partnership Committee</b>	<b>5 June 2014</b>
<b>Partnership Committee</b>	<b>7 August 2014</b>
<b>Economic Development Sub-Committee</b>	<b>21 August 2014</b>
<b>Partnership Committee</b>	<b>23 October 2014</b>
<b>Economic Development Sub-Committee</b>	<b>20 November 2014</b>
<b>Partnership Committee</b>	<b>11 December 2014</b>
<b>Partnership Committee</b>	<b>12 February 2015</b>
<b>Economic Development Sub-Committee</b>	<b>12 March 2015</b>
<b>Partnership Committee</b>	<b>16 April 2015</b>

#### **262/LLP RIVERSIDE CENTRE**

The Committee received a report regarding the Riverside Centre on Bridge Street. Since the previous committee meeting, tentative discussions had taken place between Central Bedfordshire Council and Central Bedfordshire College to secure use of the Riverside Centre to deliver adult education provision within the town. The proposal involved setting up an arts and creative studio, a café gallery, media suite, business incubation units and curriculum provision for ages 16-18 years upwards.

**RESOLVED to support the principle of Central Bedfordshire Council working in collaboration with Central Bedfordshire College to provide an educational facility at the Riverside Centre.**

The meeting closed at 2125 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2014.

Chair

10 APRIL 2014