

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2014 AT 1930 HOURS

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

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 S Sandiford (Committee Officer)
 G Borrelli (LB First)
 S Hughes (Central Bedfordshire Council)
 Cllr A Brandham
 Cllr G Perham

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

278/LLP APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor B Spurr and seconded by Councillor D Bowater that Councillor D Hopkin be appointed Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2014-2015. There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor D Hopkin as Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2014-2015.

Councillor D Hopkin took the Chair.

279/LLP APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor B Spurr and seconded by Councillor D Bowater that Councillor S Cotter be appointed Vice Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2014-2015. There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor S Cotter as Vice Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2014-2015.

280/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor N Warren, Councillor P Snelling (substituted by Councillor N Carnell), Councillor A

Shadbolt (substituted by Councillor R Berry), J Martindale (Partnership Officer) and Rev. P. Niemiec (Spokesperson – Community Forum Steering Group).

281/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.

282/LLP DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received.

283/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Two members of the public spoke to ask the Committee for a progress update regarding signage in the town centre. In particular, a request was made for a sign highlighting “Access to High Street” or “High Street deliveries”. A question was also raised regarding progress with developing a tourism leaflet for the town.

Members of the public were thanked for their comments. The Town Clerk agreed to email an update regarding both matters to all relevant parties.

284/LLP MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Committee received the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 10 April 2014.

Minute reference 268/LLP: the point was raised that the development of the South Side of the High Street should be a medium term priority and that assurances had previously been given that work would be underway within three to five years. It was agreed that this item was high on the agenda and a request was made for a Central Bedfordshire Council officer to attend the Partnership Committee meeting on 23 October 2014 to provide an update regarding this project.

Minute reference 269/LLP: a query was raised regarding how successful the “Red Saturday” initiative in the town centre had been. It was noted that only one event had been held to date and recognised that the majority of marketing had been via social media. It was suggested that more publicity might be required for future events in order to attract shoppers in to the town.

Minute reference 273/LLP: a query was raised regarding status of a traffic speed camera on Soulbury Road. The Committee was advised that the camera post and housing had been ordered, a site had been identified, police agreement had been sought and installation was anticipated within 6-8 weeks.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 10 April 2014 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

285/LLP MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 May 2014.

RESOLVED to receive the draft minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 May 2014.

The Committee gave consideration to the recommendation at Minute Reference 99/EC: to endorse the proposed economic development activity for 2014-2015 and for funding of £9,600 to be allocated accordingly from the Economic Development budget.

RESOLVED to endorse the proposed economic development activity for 2014-2015 and to allocate £9,600 from the Economic Development budget (503-4430).

It was noted that there was a further recommendation regarding the Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee and this would be considered later in the meeting.

Minute Reference 101/EC: the Committee considered the recommendation that an amendment be made to the procedure for the Market Bursary scheme.

RESOLVED that an amendment be made to the procedure for the Market Bursary scheme, by delegating authority to the Town Clerk to make a final decision (following review of applications by the Market and Town Centre Officer with the Chair of the Economic Development Sub-Committee).

286/LLP REVIEW OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND TASK GROUPS

The Committee was asked to review the structure, Terms of Reference and membership of its Sub-Committees and task groups.

RESOLVED to maintain the existing Economic Development Sub-Committee and Operation Swan task group and that no changes be made to the membership.

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Economic Development Sub-Committee be amended to the following:

- i) to develop projects to support start-up businesses in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade**
- ii) to support Central Bedfordshire Council's Economic Development Plan in relation to Leighton-Linslade**
- iii) to consider, propose and promote projects which encourage greater economic development in Leighton-Linslade**
- iv) to review and develop town centre strategies to encourage greater use of the town centre to maintain and enhance vitality and viability.**

287/LLP BUSINESS UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update from G Borelli on behalf of LB First. Discussions were underway with the local First Responders group regarding fundraising for a defibrillator, to be located in the town centre. The Swan Hotel had been approached as a possible location.

It was noted that Central Bedfordshire Council had recently launched an initiative to work with parish councils to provide defibrillators and that The Rotary Club of Leighton-Linslade had also agreed a donation towards provision of a defibrillator. It was suggested that a meeting be set up for all interested parties to discuss further how many defibrillators could be obtained and potential locations.

LB First suggested that fundraising could be launched as part of the "Independents Day" initiative. This was designed to encourage shoppers to visit local independent businesses. Activity would take place on Friday 4 July and Saturday 5 July 2014. The Partnership had agreed financial support for the initiative in 2013 and was asked to consider further funding for the 2014 event, to be used mainly for publicity (e.g. leaflets).

RESOLVED to support funding of up to £300 from the Economic Development budget (503-4430) for the 2014 Independents Day initiative.

288/LLP CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

The Committee received an update report from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding matters including community safety, leisure, Library and Theatre, highways and transportation, youth services, partnerships and community engagement. The resurfacing programme for 2014-2015 was also included and various aspects of this were discussed.

RESOLVED to note the report.

289/LLP COMMITTEE WORK PLAN, OBJECTIVES AND BUDGET

(a) The Committee received a budget monitoring report for the financial year 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015. It was noted that not all funds allocated by the Committee were shown on the report as committed expenditure, as in some cases a supplier had not yet been appointed and an order had not been raised. The Committee received a spreadsheet detailing committed and available funds for the three main project budgets of Big Plan Projects, Town Centre Management and Economic Development.

It was noted that although the Christmas Weekend event appeared to be over budget, in fact the income generated balanced this out.

RESOLVED to note the information.

(b) The Committee received a copy of the objectives and work plan for 2013-2014. It was agreed to add an update from Central Bedfordshire Council

regarding the South Side of the High Street development to the workplan for the meeting to be held on 23 October 2014.

RESOLVED to note the information.

290/LLP TEMPORARY BEACH

The Committee received an update report regarding the temporary beach, which was currently being installed and would be officially opened with a “launch day” on Saturday 7 June. Three temporary beach attendants had been recruited to cover the operational hours. Operational procedures were in place along with beach rules of use, terms and conditions for private hire and an operational manual located on site. Various activities had been arranged for the launch day and there would also be a “Pirates Day” event on 9 August.

The Committee expressed congratulations to all those involved in the “Wild Wild West Big Lunch” event held on 1 June 2014 in the High Street.

RESOLVED to note the information.

291/LLP BIG PLAN II PROJECTS

(a) The Committee received a report and considered a recommendation made by the Leisure and Community Committee at its meeting on 2 June 2014 (Minute Reference 468/LC): **that the £10,000 from the Big Plan Projects budget identified as match funding for the Green Gym bid remains dedicated to grant match funding, but that £3,000 of these monies be used to procure the services of an external consultant to create a Sports Development Plan on behalf of the Town Council.**

The proposal to create a Sports Development Plan had arisen from the Town Council’s application for funding from Sport England’s Inspired Facilities fund for a Green Gym facility, which had been unsuccessful. Feedback from Sport England indicated that further evidence was required to support such a bid for funding.

It was proposed that a Sports Development Plan be established, which would not only support any future grant applications but also consolidate recent improvement works in the town parks, build on Central Bedfordshire’s Leisure Strategy and inform negotiations regarding infrastructure for the forthcoming Eastern urban extension.

In recognition of the lack of currently available resources at the Town Council, it was proposed that a proportion of the funding set aside for match funding the Green Gym project be used to procure the services of an external consultant to create the plan.

RESOLVED that the £10,000 from the Big Plan Projects budget identified as match funding for the Green Gym bid remains dedicated to grant match funding, but that £3,000 of these monies be used to procure the

services of an external consultant to create a Sports Development Plan on behalf of the Town Council.

(b) The Committee received a report on the potential use of Big Plan funding to involve children and young people with the Astral Park Sports and Community Centre. With the Centre now fully staffed, it was hoped that engagement with local young people could begin, possibly to facilitate community group/club use or to undertake activities such as youth work, sports coaching, training and food preparation. It was identified in Big Plan II that an aspiration was to expand the range of available activities in the town for children and young people.

RESOLVED to allocate funding of up to £3,000 to facilitate children and young people's use of the Astral Park Sports and Community Centre, in accordance with the Council's broader Big Plan aims and objectives.

292/LLP EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. The public and press to withdraw from the meeting during consideration of detailed discussion regarding: town centre environment (Operation Swan) update.

293/LLP TOWN CENTRE ENVIRONMENT

The Committee received a report regarding improvements to the town centre environment undertaken to date and proposals moving forward. It was proposed and seconded that the proposed course of action be undertaken. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried (six in favour, one against, one abstention).

RESOLVED to approve the proposed course of action detailed in the report using funds previously allocated from the Town Centre Management budget.

RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Finance Committee that a budget line be set up for long term, ongoing town centre environment improvements and that provision for this be included in future budget setting.

The meeting closed at 2118 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2014.