

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2014 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors D Bowater - CBC
 S Cotter - LLTC
 D Hopkin – CBC - in the Chair
 G Rolfe – LLTC
 P Snelling - LLTC
 A Shadbolt - CBC
 B Spurr - CBC
 N Warren – CBC

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 V Cannon (Head of Economic Development)
 J Martindale (Partnership Officer)
 S Hughes (Central Bedfordshire Council)
 S Caldbeck (Central Bedfordshire Council)
 G Borelli (LB First)
 B Chandler (LB Connect)
 S Bennett (Leighton-Linslade First Responders)
 Cllr A Brandham
 Cllr G Perham

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

300/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence for Councillor A Dodwell and Councillor K Sharer were received and accepted.

301/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.

302/LLP DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received.

303/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public requested an update on removing the Taxi's from the High Street. Councillor B Spurr provided a brief update in advance of it being addressed by S Caldbeck of Central Bedfordshire Council under Town Centre Delivery Plan (Minute Reference 307/LLP).

304/LLP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Committee received the minutes of the Partnership Committee meetings held on 5 June 2014 and on 15 July 2014.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meetings held on 5 June 2014 and on 15 July 2014 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

305/LLP COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND OBJECTIVES

The Committee received a copy of the Objectives and Work Plan for 2014-2015.

RESOLVED that an Officer from the Central Bedfordshire Council Strategic Planning Team would be invited to the forthcoming meeting to discuss the relative merits of a Neighbourhood plan being prepared for the parish.

RESOLVED to note the report.

306/LLP DEFIBRILLATOR SCHEME

The Committee received a report from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding public access defibrillators and was asked to formally support and oversee the project, including approval of the locations for the defibrillators. In addition to fundraising undertaken by the Leighton-Linslade First Responders volunteers, the Rotary Club had offered a donation to fund a defibrillator and LB First had launched a public fundraising campaign on 4 July. The Town Council had submitted an Expression of Interest to Central Bedfordshire Council for funding for a defibrillator at Astral Park.

RESOLVED to Central Bedfordshire Council to follow up installation of the Defibrillator with the Rotary Club and also provide the Town Council confirmation of successful application for a further Defibrillator.

Leighton Linslade Town Clerk to co-ordinate the training of the Defibrillators.

RESOLVED:

- (i) to note the report and formally support and oversee the development of the collaborative Leighton Defibrillator Project, aided by the LL Defibrillator Project Steering Group**
- (ii) that once final funding levels are confirmed, that the Partnership Committee approves the locations of the defibrillators**

307/LLP TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY PLAN

By invitation, S Caldbeck of Central Bedfordshire Council attended the meeting to provide an update regarding the Town Centre Delivery Plan and the parking survey recently undertaken.

RESOLVED:

- (i) **For S Caldbeck to arrange a formal presentation of the draft Car parking management study at the next Partnership Committee meeting.**
- (ii) **To provide a more detailed response on the delivery timescales for the Town Centre Delivery Plan**

308/LLP BUSINESS UPDATE

G Borelli, Chair of LB First, advised the Committee that the 4th July Independents day went well over two days and thanked the Town Council, First Responders and LB First for their support. Collection tins are still around the town and will continue with fundraising for the Defibrillators. Also LB First are working with the Town Council on this years Christmas event. Plus he has received very good feedback on the beach and would like to find out if these visitors are coming into the town and spending money with local businesses. Partnership officer Jo Martindale confirmed that we are collating this data from the evaluation forms on the beach.

B Chandler, Chair of LB Connect, advised the Committee that the group are reporting good growth and have done two charity events since the last meeting. Also four new members have joined and would like the Town Council to look at supporting small business. The Town Clerk advised of the new position for Economic Development Head of Service will be in place from 1st September 2014 and will engage with local businesses going forward.

RESOLVED to note the information**309/LLP BEACH UPDATE**

The Committee received a report regarding the temporary beach which had been installed in Parson's Close Recreation Ground for the summer, as part of the economic development programme to attract people into the town centre. An official launch on 7 June 2014 had been followed by an initial spate of vandalism, but this had quickly abated following the use of CCTV and additional police patrols as a preventative measure. Operational issues including staffing and sand levels were being monitored.

Initial feedback from visitors had been very positive, with the majority of users from LU7 postcodes but an increasing number of visitors from surrounding

villages and neighbouring towns. Beach activities had been planned and a themed “pirates party” event would take place on 9 August.

A full report on the three-month initiative would be presented to the committee at its next meeting in October.

RESOLVED to note the report.

310/LLP COMMUNITY FORUM POST-EVENT REPORT

The Committee received a report regarding the Community Forum event on the themes of “Healthy, Wealthy & Wise” which had taken place on 22 March 2014 in the town centre. A report detailing the discussions and comments arising on the day had been drafted for committee approval. The report would then be published on the Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council websites and publicised locally.

Suggestions from delegates regarding future events included an event led by and for young people and an event focussing on health and wellbeing. The Community Forum Steering Group would investigate these ideas further, with the hope of holding not one but two events during the next year.

Paul Niemiec, spokesperson for the Steering Group was thanked for his continued input and commitment.

RESOLVED to approve the Community Forum report and support a further two community forums including a Youth Forum in 2014 and a Well-being Forum in March 2015.

311/LLP BIG LUNCH POST-EVENT REPORT

The Committee received a report regarding the “Wild Wild West” themed Big Lunch event which took place on 1 June 2014, as part of the national Big Lunch initiative. The event had included themed entertainment which was free to participants and a variety of food outlets which were centred around a giant “Megasol”, creating a food court area. Over 2000 visitors were seen in the High Street at any one time and positive feedback had been received from members of the public attending.

The Committee was asked to consider introducing the event as an annual town event for the next five years and for funding to be allocated within the budget for the delivery, promotion and provision of entertainment.

RESOLVED to include the big lunch as an annual event for five years from 2015-2020 plus support £10,000 per year within the future Partnership budget.

312/LLP CHRISTMAS 2014

The Committee received a report regarding the Christmas Lighting power supply in the town centre. A detailed electrical inspection had taken place in

April 2014 and improvement works had subsequently taken place, including the upgrade of analogue timers to more reliable digital timers. All works had been undertaken within the Christmas Lights budget (underspend from 2013-2014).

RESOLVED to note the report.

313/LLP GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The Committee received a report from The Greensand Trust regarding the development of a Green Infrastructure Plan for the town. Work to date included two workshops held in May 2014, completion of fifty questionnaires and consultation at the Linslade Canal Festival on 26 July. A draft plan was being produced and a summary would be published in the next News from the White House, providing an opportunity for local people to vote for their favourite projects. A final plan would be presented to the committee for approval at its next meeting in October 2014.

RESOLVED to note the information.

314/LLP SIGNAGE UPDATE

The Committee received a report regarding the signage project, including work already completed and an update on current and future signage projects. It was anticipated that work to replace the town centre maps in the car parks would be completed within the next month. In the meantime, an audit was being undertaken of all existing signage, with over 200 photographs already taken. It was anticipated that recommendations arising from the audit would be brought to the next committee meeting.

RESOLVED to note the report.

315/LLP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received a report proposing a change in dates of future scheduled meetings of the Economic Development Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED to approve the change in meeting dates of the Economic Development Committee, as detailed below:

21 August 2014, 20 November 2014 and 12 March 2015 to be cancelled and replaced with meetings on 6 October 2014, 8 January 2015 and 31 March 2015.

316/LLP SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The Committee received a late report regarding the update of the town shopping Directory. The committee were asked to fund the project in line with ongoing tourism and rebranding work being carried out by the Town council.

RESOLVED

- (i) **To allocate £1500 from Big Plan publications 502/5325 to update of the map and redesign work for a new shopping directory**
- (ii) **To print 10,000 leaflets prior to the Christmas shopping weekend**

The meeting closed at 21:40 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 AUGUST 2014.

Chair

23 OCTOBER 2014

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