

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 8 JANUARY 2015 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors M Bishop
 D Bowater
 S Cotter – in the Chair
 A Dodwell
 R Goodchild
 D Hopkin

Also in attendance: V Cannon (Head of Economic Development)
 D Wilkinson (Central Bedfordshire Council)
 G Borrelli (LB First)
 R Chandler (LB Connect)

Members of the public: None

113/EC APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

114/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.

115/EC REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received from Councillors.

116/EC PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

117/EC MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 6 October 2014 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

118/EC BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

The Sub-Committee received a report regarding a proposal to hold a third Business Networking event on Thursday 23 April 2015. It was proposed that

the event be held at the Astral Park Sports and Community Centre and that officers from both Councils would liaise with LB Connect and the Federation of Small Businesses to plan the details. It was anticipated that attendees would be able to register online on the new Town Council website. A difference was noted in attendance numbers between the first and second events that were held. A more robust feedback form is to be designed to help officers understand what influences businesses to attend the conference.

RESOLVED to approve the proposed date, times and venue for the 2015 Spring Networking Event.

RECOMMENDED to the Partnership Committee to allocate £2,007 for the Spring Networking Event from budget codes 970/9027 (EMR TCM Business Development) and 503/4510 (TCM Business Development).

119/EC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Sub-Committee received an updated work plan from Central Bedfordshire Council, providing information on progress to date on the agreed actions for the year, including key employer visits, Business Timebank and Let's Talk Business activity and other business engagement projects.

A query was raised (G Borrelli) that CBC did not appear to have published a policy specific to developments for Leighton-Linslade, e.g. for Land South of the High Street, and whether this could mean that ambitions would be allowed to slip down in priority. Cllr D Hopkins confirmed that the land ownership is all in place and potential businesses are being courted. It was highlighted that two development briefs are in place for such opportunities in the Town.

Members were informed of a new approach for partnership working between Market Towns and Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC). CBC was initiating a more collaborative identification of work priorities to be agreed between CBC and the Town Council. Members were informed that an initial introductory meeting had taken place between officers with a follow-up meeting arranged for late January 2015. CBC representatives confirmed that a senior officer from their Council would attend a future meeting to share understanding of this new approach.

RESOLVED to note the information.

120/EC TOWN CENTRE RESIDENTS' SURVEY

The Sub-Committee received the notes from three meetings held to date by the working party reviewing the information identified in the town centre residents' survey conducted by M-E-L Ltd in September/October 2014.

RESOLVED to note the information.

The meeting closed at 20.40 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2015.

Chair

31 MARCH 2015

DRAFT