

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 14 JULY 2015 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors S Cotter – LLTC
 A Brandham - LLTC
 F Kharawala - LLTC
 A Dodwell – LLTC (substituting for C Palmer)
 G Perham - CBC
 B Spurr – CBC

Also in attendance: V Cannon (Head of Economic Development)
 S Sandiford (Committee Officer)
 P Williams (Deputy Electrical & Lighting Manager,
 Central Bedfordshire Highways)

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

014/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor C Palmer (substituted by Councillor A Dodwell), Councillor D Bowater, Councillor G Tubb, Councillor T Morris, the Town Clerk and from Partnership Officer Jo Martindale.

015/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 were made.

016/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

017/LLP CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AND SOUND

Cllr B Spurr asked the Vice Chair, Cllr S Cotter, to take over Charing the meeting due to his greater knowledge of the previous Christmas lighting contract.

The Committee was given a brief overview of the past three year contract regarding Christmas lighting. A number of issues had affected the lights including electricity supply, faulty equipment and timers, street lamps not working and staff being called out to address problems were not trained to deal with problems.

Work was being programmed to be undertaken to upgrade the timers to digital and to improve issues with the electricity supply. This would reduce reliance on private businesses to voluntarily supply power for the lighting. Electricity supply would also be reinstated on the Hockliffe Street roundabout.

Officers were working with Amey colleagues to address issues. It was requested that Amey complete a tick-box check of all necessary infrastructure by the start of November to ensure that everything was in working order prior to the installation of the Christmas lighting. Checks were also built in to the contractor process, at fabrication stage, installation stage and prior to switch-on.

The provision of sound systems in the town centre was discussed. It had been suggested that the stage for the Christmas Festival be placed in the centre of the High Street rather than at the top end, as this might enable more people to hear. It was discussed that the Rotary Club had tried a number of options in respect of the Christmas Eve carol singing and the May Day Fayre and to speak to them to find out more about their experiences. Officers were asked to undertake further research on provision of speakers in the town centre as this would be an ongoing issue.

RESOLVED to note the information.

018/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 the appointment of a Christmas lights contractor.

019/LLP APPOINTMENT OF A CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTRACTOR

The Committee received a report outlining details of the quotes received for the three-year Christmas Lighting contract (2015-2018). Officers provided an overview of the specification, which would link the town through a consistent colour scheme and celebrate the town's strong sense of community through a competition to design Christmas light motifs.

The quotes received were discussed. The shortlisting process had identified one particular supplier who met the key elements of the specification within the parameters of the budget. References and testimonials had also been provided.

The Committee expressed the hope that the scheme would include Peacock Mews and Waterborne Walk. It was clarified that lights were LED bulbs which were most energy-efficient to run and that the costs quoted were for hire of the lights, rather than purchase. Storage costs for the remainder of the year were included.

Uplighting of key town centre buildings was briefly discussed. This could potentially be funded from the budget allocated to actions arising from the 2014 Residents' Survey.

It was proposed and seconded to endorse the recommendation to appoint contractor 2 as the supplier of Christmas Lights for 2015-2018. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED to award the Christmas Lighting contract for the next three years to contractor 2 (Blachere Illumination).

The meeting closed at 20:40 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2015.

Chair

3 SEPTEMBER 2015