

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2015 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors B Spurr – CBC – in the Chair
 S Cotter – LLTC
 A Brandham – LLTC
 F Kharawala - LLTC
 C Palmer – LLTC
 T Morris – LLTC
 G Perham - CBC

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 J Martindale (Partnership Officer)
 S Sandiford (Committee Officer)
 S Hughes (Community Engagement Manager,
 Central Bedfordshire Council)
 J Yandall (Head of Investment & Employment,
 Central Bedfordshire Council)
 R Geddes (Head of Programme Development,
 Central Bedfordshire Council)
 G Borrelli (Chair, LB First)
 Cllr A Dodwell

Members of the Public: 2
Members of the Press: 0

037/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors D Bowater and G Tubb and from V Cannon, Head of Economic Development.

It was noted that the Town Mayor was currently unwell and best wishes expressed for his swift recovery.

038/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 and no dispensations had been requested.

039/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public and representative of South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth spoke in respect of community projects. Town Council officers and councillors were thanked for their support and a wish was expressed to continue working in partnership in the future. To facilitate this, a request was made for

mediation. In addition, a request was made to specifically identify and acknowledge South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth where appropriate to do so.

The representative was thanked for attending the meeting and asked to email concerns to the Town Clerk and the Committee Chair in the first instance, in order for a response to be provided and if necessary, to organise a meeting to take place with a mediator present.

040/LLP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meetings held on 3 September 2015 and on 14 October 2015.

Minute reference 024/LLP - a query was raised regarding inviting Councillor N Young to attend the meeting to answer questions on the development brief for the south side of the High Street. Councillor Young was on holiday but would be asked to either provide a written update or to attend the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meetings held on 3 September 2015 and on 14 October 2015 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

041/LLP ENABLING DELIVERY IN LEIGHTON-LINSLADE

By invitation, J Yandall, Head of Investment and Employment and R Geddes, Head of Programme Development at Central Bedfordshire Council, attended the meeting to provide information regarding the new Market Town Regeneration Fund.

A £4million capital fund was being made available by Central Bedfordshire Council in recognition of the challenges being faced by market towns, such as housing growth and changing leisure and shopping patterns. Bids were invited from all market towns within the authority area, for schemes which would re-invigorate and enhance the towns. This was a one-off fund to be spent by February 2018, with no further maintenance costs after this time.

Central Bedfordshire Council would be seeking match funding for schemes, to be provided from sources such as Town Councils, grant funding or business contributions. Bids could vary in size from £25,000 up to £1million. The official launch date was 30 October and the deadline for submission of bids was 29 February 2016. An application form and specification would guide parish councils in submitting their bid, which would need to be evidence based, provide a high return on investment and clearly demonstrate potential economic growth. There would need to be clear success criteria such as increased footfall or business growth.

Potential projects could include infrastructure, public realm, markets, shopfronts, marketing or events. Bids should demonstrate collaboration and partnerships,

with community momentum behind the proposed schemes and demonstrating benefits to the wider community.

Central Bedfordshire officers would be pleased to support Town Councils in the bid development process. Successful bids would be publicised in March 2016, with delivery to commence from April 2016.

It was clarified that any proposed scheme would need to be new and something which would not otherwise take place (rather than a project already underway).

Committee Members noted that the need to provide match funding for potential projects would need to be considered alongside pre-existing project commitments and the Town Council's emerging five-year financial plan. It was agreed that any final decision regarding submission of a bid would need to be approved by the Town Council and should not be held up in any way by a need to wait for the Partnership Committee.

It was noted that, should a bid prove successful, the funding from Central Bedfordshire Council could potentially be spent first, giving parish councils time to source funding for the following financial year. It was likely that most projects would be of a two-year duration, with the first year focussed on planning and the second on delivery.

It was noted that the timescales were very tight in terms of determining potential projects and creating a bid. A query was raised about whether any costs incurred by Town Councils in generating a bid could be reimbursed. No costs could be reimbursed but officers at Central Bedfordshire were willing to help support the bid development process, including looking at possibilities for further external grant funding.

It was agreed that once the specification had been launched, an informal meeting would take place in order to consider potential scheme ideas.

RESOLVED to note the information.

J Yandall and R Geddes left the meeting at 2022 hours.

042/LLP COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN

The Committee received the Committee objectives and work plan for 2015-2016. It was noted that Central Bedfordshire Council's five-year plan was due to be approved shortly and that this contained some relevant outcomes and objectives which could be incorporated into the Committee work plan.

RESOLVED to note the information.

043/LLP BUSINESS GROUPS UPDATE

G Borelli of LB First advised the Committee that he had been asked to raise a number of queries. One was with regard to the refurbishment work taking place in the multi-storey car park, which was restricting the number of spaces and was

scheduled to continue well into the pre-Christmas trading period. The Chair agreed to find out further information on expected timescales for the work.

The second point was with regard to the gritting of town centre car parks, should the winter weather result in snow and ice. Clarification was provided that Central Bedfordshire Council would not grit the car parks. A query was raised as to whether the car parks would then be officially closed. A response on this would be sought from Central Bedfordshire Council.

A query was raised regarding the barriers on the pavement outside Kingfisher Carpets. It was unclear whose responsibility it was to effect repairs. The land was not public highway and might be part of the Waterborne Walk complex. The Community Engagement Officer would make further enquiries with the Highways department.

LB First was continuing to work with the Town Council on the forthcoming Christmas Festival Weekend and was also liaising with the Town Centre and Market Officer on matters affecting the town centre.

RESOLVED to note the information.

044/LLP CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received a report from Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of matters relating to the parish, including community safety, leisure matters, highways work, community engagement, youth services and schools.

Concerns were raised regarding antisocial behaviour in the town centre, in particular in conjunction with the barrier to prevent vehicular access to the High Street on market days. The issue had recently been discussed at both the Market Sub-Committee and the Police Liaison Sub-Committee. A query was raised regarding whether there was any capacity in the CCTV control room, but it was also noted that the police were not always available to respond when contacted by the control room.

RESOLVED to note the information.

045/LLP PROJECTS ARISING FROM 2014 RESIDENTS' SURVEY

The Committee received a report in respect of the survey undertaken with local residents in the Autumn of 2014. Following analysis by a working party, a number of work themes and associated actions had been identified. These related to markets, parking, lighting, entertainment and communications. The report provided an update on activity to date and intentions moving forward. In order to progress further, the actions and associated budgets would be embedded into wider work programmes and carried forward into 2016-2017.

A query was raised regarding timescales for projects. In some cases, forward planning was required to ensure budget allocation. In other cases, projects were running in parallel with other committed projects and progress was therefore dependent on available resources.

RESOLVED to note the information.

046/LLP SIGNAGE UPDATE

The Committee received a report in respect of the ongoing project to update and improve signage within the town, as identified in the Signage Strategy developed and endorsed in 2012. The majority of work had now been delivered and had come in slightly under budget. An outline of future activity was provided, including potential signage in the parks.

RESOLVED to note the information.

047/LLP REVIEW OF 2015 BEACH PROJECT

The Committee was advised that a verbal update in respect of the 2015 beach project would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED to note the information.

The meeting closed at 2115 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2015.

Chair

17 DECEMBER 2015