

051 MARKET TOWNS REGENERATION FUND

Council was given a verbal update from Councillor S Cotter in respect of a proposed bid to the Central Bedfordshire Market Towns Regeneration Fund. Following meetings of the working party, supported by officers, proposed projects would now be further investigated, with a view to developing a bid document. This would be presented to the Policy and Finance Committee on 22 February 2015 for approval prior to submission to Central Bedfordshire Council.

A number of potential ideas had been discussed and the priorities agreed to be: enhancements to the town centre at night, provision of town centre WiFi, improving the branding and layout of the street market, electronic signage, moving the taxis out of the High Street and investigating the viability of setting up a Business Improvement District. Discussion had also taken place regarding the potential use of the Riverside Centre, management of pigeons and consideration of pay on exit parking/free parking after 3pm. These three items would be investigated further but outside the remit of the bid to the Market Towns Regeneration Fund.

All those involved in the project to date were thanked for their time and effort.

On being proposed and seconded, it was agreed to endorse the bid process for the Market Towns Regeneration Fund, based on the projects discussed (17 in favour, 1 abstention).

RESOLVED to endorse the preparation of a bid to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of the Market Towns Regeneration Fund, to be approved by the Policy and Finance Committee before submission.

Further discussion took place regarding parking and enforcement options and it was agreed to progress this through the Partnership Committee.