

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2015 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors D Bowater - CBC
 A Dodwell – LLTC (substituting for A Brandham)
 S Jones – LLTC (substituting for S Cotter)
 F Kharawala - LLTC
 C Palmer – LLTC
 T Morris – LLTC
 G Perham – CBC
 B Spurr – CBC – in the Chair

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 V Cannon (Head of Economic Development)
 J Martindale (Partnership Officer)
 S Sandiford (Committee Officer)
 S Hughes (Community Engagement Manager,
 Central Bedfordshire Council)
 G Borrelli (Chair, LB First)
 B Chandler (Chair, LB Connect)
 Rev. P Niemiec (Community Forum Steering
 Group)

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

048/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor S Cotter (substituted by Councillor S Jones) and Councillor A Brandham (substituted by Councillor A Dodwell).

049/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.

050/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public.

051/LLP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 22 October 2015.

Minute reference 039/LLP (Public Questions): it was noted that the requested meeting with a mediator had been scheduled, within the Central Bedfordshire framework and with no cost involved to either party.

Minute reference 040/LLP (Minutes of Previous Meetings): concerns were expressed regarding the lack of response from Central Bedfordshire Council following the questions raised about the proposed development of the south side of the High Street. It was noted that representatives of Central Bedfordshire Council were expected to attend the April 2016 committee meeting to provide an update, but the view was expressed that a written response should be provided in the meantime. It was agreed for S Hughes to request a written response to the queries raised previously in respect of this matter.

Minute reference 047/LLP (Review of 2015 Beach Project): the Committee was given a brief verbal update and it was noted that reference was made to the beach project in agenda item 10 (Budget). The new beach design for 2015 had been well received by the public and the facility remained in good condition, to be used again during 2016, after which the Town Council had the option to buy the structure.

Minute reference 043/LLP (Business Groups update): a query was raised regarding the status of the required pavement repairs in Waterborne Walk. In addition to concern for health and safety of pedestrians, concerns were expressed regarding the vacant units in the shopping centre and the impression given by the poor state of repair of the paving.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 22 October 2015 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

052/LLP COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN

The Committee received the Committee objectives and work plan for 2015-2016.

Town Council objective 17 (review Big Plan II): it was noted that a report was due to be presented to the Town Council in January 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. Draft amendments would be presented at the next meeting.

RESOLVED to note the information.

053/LLP BUSINESS GROUPS UPDATE

B Chandler of LB Connect advised the Committee had started fundraising for the local KidsOut charity and would continue to do so.

G Borelli of LB First spoke to the Committee regarding the Christmas Festival. Despite the unfortunate need to cancel the Sunday activities due to adverse weather conditions, the Friday event had gone very well and was an important start to the pre-Christmas trading period, as well as a message of support to town centre businesses. Thanks were expressed to the Town Council for its support.

LB First members and in particular Mr D Prior were thanked for their contribution to the planning and organisation of the Christmas Festival.

RESOLVED to note the information.

054/LLP COMMUNITY FORUM

The Committee received a report regarding the Community Forum and a verbal update from Rev. P. Niemiec following the Youth Forum event held on 21 October 2015. Thanks were expressed to all those who had been involved in the event, which had given young people the opportunity to express their concerns and to consider how they could make a difference. Recommendations arising from the event would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

During the discussion regarding involvement of young people, it was noted that the Town Twinning Forum had recently been able to engage with eleven local schools regarding "e-twinning".

It was noted that many of the concerns raised by young people echoed those expressed by adult residents, including police presence, personal safety, mental health and lack of public transport.

The Committee was asked to note the resignation of Rev. P. Niemiec as Chair of the Community Forum Steering group and it was noted that the group was considering a variety of mechanisms to give people a voice moving forward. Thanks were expressed to the group and in particular to Rev. Niemiec for his significant contribution to three successful Community Forum events.

RESOLVED to:

- (i) Note the resignation of the Chairman of the Community Forum Steering group and spokesperson to the Partnership Committee.**
- (ii) Formally thank the Chairman for his significant contribution to three successful community events.**
- (iii) Approve the suggestions for the future of the Community Forum, for further discussion by the Steering Group.**
- (iv) Note the initial results of the Youth Forum event on 21 October 2015, prior to a more detailed evaluation report coming forward to the Partnership Committee meeting in February 2016.**

055/LLP CHILDREN'S TRAIL

The Committee received a report in respect of the town centre Children's Trail, including background, key facts, activity to date during 2015-16 and budgets.

Key projects undertaken recently included re-branding to create more user-friendly literature, an increased online/social media presence and greater interaction with schools. Proposed projects and budgets for 2016-17 were outlined for consideration.

RESOLVED to:

- (i) Use the remaining funds from the 2015-16 budget (codes 970/9027 and 503/4509) for maintenance and refurbishment of the artworks.**
- (ii) Allocate £2100 in the 2016-17 budget (code 503/4509) to extend the work of the Children's Trail Guardian for another year.**
- (iii) Allocate a further £4,720 in the 2016-17 budget (code 503/4509) for future publicity and maintenance of the Trail, as outlined in the report.**
- (iv) Note potential future projects for the Trail, should budget be available.**

056/LLP MARKET BURSARY SCHEME AND POP-UP MARKET

The Committee received a report in respect of the Market Bursary and Pop-Up Market schemes, following a review requested earlier in the year. Following recommendations to the Market Sub-Committee, it was proposed that the bursary be reduced from £500 to £250 and be payable upon receipts.

RESOLVED to:

- (i) To note the report.**
- (ii) To reduce the market bursary amount from £500 to £250, to be reimbursed upon receipts for the purchase of necessary equipment, in two stages.**
- (iii) That the market bursary budget be transferred to the Street Markets budget (412) from 2016-2017 onwards.**

057/LLP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Committee received a six monthly budget monitoring report for the period 1 April – 30 September 2015 and was asked to ratify the transfer of the 2015-16 Beach budget to the Grounds and Environmental Services budget, which would manage the project in future.

RESOLVED to:

- (i) Note the report.**
- (ii) Agree for monies allocated to deliver the Beach (504/4570) to be transferred to the Grounds and Environmental Services budget heading.**

058/LLP 2016-2017 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee received a report outlining 2016-2017 budget recommendations for consideration. Following the Town Council's restructure of service teams,

work had taken place to align budgets with the service areas responsible for delivering services and projects. It was proposed to re-align existing Partnership budgets to the sum of £34,000 to more appropriate service area headings and a full list of proposed changes was attached as an appendix to the report.

It was noted that a report would be presented to the Town Council in January 2016 in respect of Big Plan II and that Earmarked Reserves for Town Centre Management projects had been temporarily “frozen” until any requirement for match funding under the Market Towns Regeneration Fund scheme had been determined.

A Committee budget of £62,000 was proposed for 2016-2017, reflecting the ongoing commitments falling within the remit of the Partnership Committee.

RESOLVED to note the proposed budget of £62,000 for the financial year 2016-2017.

RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Finance Committee to endorse the proposed Partnership Committee budget of £62,000 for the financial year 2016-2017.

059/LLP MARKET TOWNS REGENERATION FUND

The Committee was advised that, further to the presentation received at the last meeting in respect of the Market Towns Regeneration Fund, a Town Council working group of six Councillors had been created to lead on investigating potential bid options and the potential to provide match funds in support of any bid. A potential budget had been included in the draft 2016-17 budget and draft Town Council five year financial plan. Members of the Partnership Committee were invited to offer up any ideas/suggestions to the working group.

RESOLVED to note the information.

The meeting closed at 2038 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2015.

Chair

11 FEBRUARY 2016