

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2016 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors D Bowater – CBC (arrived 1934 hours)
 A Brandham – LLTC
 K Ferguson - LLTC
 T Morris – LLTC
 G Perham – LLTC
 A Dodwell – CBC
 B Spurr – CBC – in the Chair
 R Berry – CBC (substituting for G Tubb)
 E Wallace – LLTC
 B Walker - CBC

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 V Cannon (Head of Economic Development)
 T Moore (Partnership Officer – maternity cover)
 S Sandiford (interim Corporate Governance
 Manager)
 G Borrelli (Chair, LB First)
 B Chandler (Chair, LB Connect)
 T Humber (Spokesperson, Community Forum
 Steering Group)
 S Hughes (Community Engagement Manager,
 Central Bedfordshire Council)
 S Barrett (Community Safety Operations Manager,
 Central Bedfordshire Council)
 Cllr T Stock (CBC)

Members of the Public: 12
Members of the Press: 0

082/LLP APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The existing Chair Councillor B Spurr welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited nominations for 2016-2017.

It was proposed by Councillor A Dodwell and seconded by Councillor A Brandham that Councillor B Spurr be appointed Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2016-2017. It was further proposed by Councillor E Wallace and seconded by Councillor K Ferguson that Councillor B Walker be appointed Chair for 2016-2017.

On being put to the vote, Councillor B Walker was appointed Chair of the Committee for 2016-2017 (5 in favour, 4 against).

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor B Walker Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2016-2017.

Councillor Walker took the Chair and thanked Councillor B Spurr and Councillor S Cotter for being Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee for 2015-2016 and driving forward the work of the committee.

Councillor D Bowater joined the meeting at 1934 hours.

083/LLP APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor K Ferguson and seconded by Councillor B Walker that Councillor E Wallace be appointed Vice Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2016-2017. It was further proposed by Councillor A Dodwell and seconded by Councillor D Bowater that Councillor T Morris be appointed Vice Chair for 2016-2017.

On being put to the vote, Councillor T Morris was appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2016-2017 (6 in favour, 4 against).

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor T Morris Vice Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2016-2017.

084/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor G Tubb (substituted by Councillor R Berry).

085/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.

086/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Three members of the public spoke in respect of the minutes of the previous meeting and the proposed development of land to the south of the High Street. Clarification was sought as to whether the intention remained to pursue the 2012 guide for mixed use of the site. It was confirmed that the 2012 plan was guidance rather than policy and that the development of the site would be driven by market forces. Negotiations were ongoing but could not be disclosed for reasons of confidentiality.

Questions were raised regarding access to the rear of the shops on the High Street. Rear access would potentially enable businesses to hold greater quantities and varieties of stock. A query was also raised by a resident regarding deliveries being made to Pulford Road when it was a private road.

087/LLP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 27 April 2016. It was clarified that any discussion could only pertain to the accuracy of the minutes, rather than the content.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 27 April 2016 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

088/LLP CCTV UPDATE

By invitation, S Barrett of Central Bedfordshire Council attended the meeting to provide an update in respect of Closed Circuit Television. The control room in Dunstable contained a legacy system which was now over a decade old. A review was currently underway to determine what kind of investment might be needed to move towards newer technology, which would allow for reduced transmission costs and the capture of better quality data.

Newer redeployable cameras transmitted data via a 3G connection and were separate to the existing main system. The Committee was advised that the Town Council would be considering the merits or otherwise of the purchase of redeployable cameras within the near future.

A number of queries were raised and answered in respect of wireless technology, use of WiFi, referral of incidents to the police and the use of CCTV as a deterrent to criminal and antisocial activity. Any Committee members who had not previously visited the control room in Dunstable were invited to do so.

A report arising from the CCTV review would be taken to the Central Bedfordshire Council Executive later in the year, when consideration would be given to the future location of the control room, the options for use of new technologies and the financial implications and timescales for any investment.

RESOLVED to note the information.

089/LLP BUSINESS & COMMUNITY FORUM UPDATE

(a) G Borelli of LB First spoke to the Committee regarding the "Independents Day" initiative taking place on Saturday 2 July. This was part of a national campaign. Additional traders and producers were being encouraged to join the usual Saturday market and some town centre businesses also intended to join the market. Thanks were expressed to the Committee and to Town Council officers for supporting the event and the local economy.

Mr Borelli reminded the Committee of questions which had been raised at the previous meeting in respect of town centre car parking (impact of increase in charges, success of two hours free trial, introduction of pay on exit parking. A separate meeting would be organised to discuss this in more detail, but it was clarified that the introduction of pay on exit parking at two town centre car parks was still anticipated for late summer/early autumn.

(b) B Chandler of LB Connect advised the Committee that there had been no reduction in membership and that group members were still reporting good business.

- (c) T Humber of the Community Forum steering group advised the Committee that the steering group had last met in April. Two suggestions had been made for future Forum events but these needed further investigation. Once the topic/s had been clarified, consideration would be given to the best format.

RESOLVED to note the information.

090/LLP COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN

The Committee received the Objectives and Work Plan for 2016-2017 for consideration.

It was noted that a taxi/bus update was on the plan for the June meeting. In order to allow sufficient time to discuss this in depth, a separate informal meeting would be taking place the following evening. It was also clarified that the Police Crime Commissioner had been invited to attend but was unable to do so. However, she was due to hold a public meeting in the town on 30 June.

A query was raised regarding the potential for town centre WiFi. As this had not been a successful part of the bid for funding through the Market Town Regeneration Fund, separate investigations would take place and information would be brought back to the relevant Town Council Committee.

A query was raised regarding support for young people and whether there was any potential for specific projects such as street art. A request was also made for a progress report on actions which had arisen as a result of the Youth Forum event in October 2015. Feedback was being sought from the agencies involved and an update report would come to Committee at a later date.

It was suggested that Committee Members give consideration to potential future tangible and deliverable projects or objectives. Any suggestions could be put forward at the next meeting and given consideration for future work planning and budgeting.

RESOLVED to note the Committee Objectives and Work Plan for 2016-2017.

091/LLP CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

The Committee received a report from Central Bedfordshire Council containing updates on areas including community safety, business support, employment and skills, leisure and libraries, youth services, social care and community engagement. A number of minor queries and points were raised.

It was noted that a review of all the joint committees within the authority area was being undertaken by Central Bedfordshire officers in conjunction with Councillor T Stock. As well as reviewing the joint committees, engagement through the Town and Parish Council conferences and with volunteers were also being given consideration.

RESOLVED to note the report.

092/LLP BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

The Committee received a report in respect of the Business Networking Event held in April 2016 at Astral Park, organised in conjunction with partners including LB Connect and Central Bedfordshire Council. This was considered a highly successful event with approximately 150 people attending. Seventy feedback responses had been obtained, with some very positive comments, including that 97% of respondents had found the event to be useful to their business.

A number of recommendations for the event had been developed and a draft three-year event delivery plan was provided for consideration.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the report and summary of feedback from the 2016 Spring Business Networking Event.**
- (ii) To endorse the draft three-year plan to deliver the event, along with a delivery budget of £2,000 per year for three years (2017-18 to 2019-20) from the Town Centre Management budget (code 503).**

093/LLP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Committee received a budget monitoring report for the first two months of the financial year, with detail provided for ongoing commitments.

RESOLVED to note the report.

The meeting closed at 2138 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2016.

Chair

15 SEPTEMBER 2016