

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors A Brandham – LLTC
 K Ferguson - LLTC
 T Morris – LLTC
 A Dodwell – CBC
 G Perham - LLTC
 B Walker – CBC

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 V Cannon (Head of Cultural & Economic Services)
 T Mabbott (interim Committee Officer)
 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)
 M Marley (Acting Anti Social Behaviour & Statutory
 Nuisance Team Leader, Central Bedfordshire
 Council)
 M Manion, Chief Executive of Watford BID

Members of the Public: 3
Members of the Press: 0

119/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors D Bowater, E Wallace and B Spurr and from Partnership Officer J Martindale.

120/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.

121/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public and local business owner spoke in respect of the appearance of the town and issues such as graffiti and vandalism.

122/LLP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 1 December 2016.

Minute reference 109/LLP: it was requested that the minutes include reference to a question asked of Central Bedfordshire Council at the meeting, as to whether the Council would be committed to national planning policy and developing town centres first. This had been confirmed by J Longhurst to be correct.

Minute reference 111/LLP: it was noted that the report from Central Bedfordshire Council had been written rather than verbal.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 1 December 2016 be approved as a correct record and be signed accordingly.

123/LLP STANDING ITEMS

The Committee received a brief update report from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding regeneration in Leighton-Linslade, as well as a further report regarding parking and enforcement.

The Committee expressed a wish to find out more detail about the reasons for objection to relocation of the taxi rank to the multi-storey car park. Frustration was expressed at the ongoing nature of the taxi issue and the failure to determine a solution. In particular, Town Councillors expressed a concern about the impact of taxis on the Town Council's ability to deliver the town centre market relaunch project. It was agreed that this remains a standing agenda item and that the relevant Central Bedfordshire officers be invited to attend a future meeting.

Parking and the need for enforcement was discussed, not only in relation to the town centre but in terms of impacting the traffic flow on arterial routes into and out of the town. A question was raised about any potential use of Section 106 developer monies to alleviate parking issues in the town.

A brief verbal update was given in respect of the Market Town Regeneration Fund projects and the High Street Improvement Scheme project.

RESOLVED to note the information.

124/LLP PURPLE FLAG AWARD

Further to the objective outlined in the Town Council's Three Year Plan for 2015-2018 and previous discussion of the scheme, the Committee received a report regarding the Purple Flag award for town centres. Maria Mannion from the Business Improvement District in Watford spoke about the implementation of the scheme in Watford and its impact on the local community. It was noted that partnership working was absolutely crucial to the successful implementation of a scheme.

Significant discussion took place about the potential merits or otherwise of further exploring the possibility of working towards a Purple Flag award. Overall,

it was the view of the majority that the timing was not right and that further consideration should be deferred until there was greater clarity on the future development of the south side of the High Street.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that no further action be taken in respect of further exploring the potential of working towards Purple Flag status for at least a year.

RESOLVED to suspect Town Council Standing Orders were suspended in order to allow the meeting to continue beyond 2.5 hours.

125/LLP STREET DRINKING

By invitation, Michelle Marley of Central Bedfordshire Council attended the meeting to provide information in respect of antisocial behaviour in the town, particularly street drinking. It was noted that the homeless shelter was constrained by its licence and could potentially be better used during the day. Churches were looking into whether any daytime provision could be made.

It was recognised that enforcement approaches were not the long-term answer to complex personal issues but that significant resources would be required to bring about any significant change.

It was agreed that this be maintained as a standing agenda item and to invite someone from the local authority to a future meeting to focus on social care provision.

RESOLVED to note the information.

126/LLP REVIEW OF JOINT COMMITTEES

The Committee received information and proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Committee, arising as a result of a review of all Central Bedfordshire joint committees.

It was noted that a detailed review of the role and activity of joint committees was likely to continue over the coming year and that the first stage was to consider the Terms of Reference. It was agreed that an informal session take place in order for all Councillors to have input into the review process.

RESOLVED to note the information and to hold an informal session for councillors to consider the proposed revised Terms of Reference, prior to the next Committee meeting.

127/LLP COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN

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

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

The Committee received a draft Work Plan and Objectives for 2017-2018 for consideration, based on the meeting dates provisionally included within the Town Council's Calendar of Meetings for the next municipal year. Reference was made to the anticipated budget report, agenda item 12, and the likelihood of work plan objectives transferring to a Town Council committee.

RESOLVED to approve the proposed Committee Objectives and Work Plan for 2017-2018.

128/LLP BUSINESS GROUPS UPDATE

- (a) B Chandler of LB Connect advised the Committee that local businesses reported ongoing good levels of activity. An invitation was extended to all present to attend the annual Business Networking Event on 26th April 2017 at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club.
- (b) G Borelli of LB First advised the Committee that the recent community planning event organised by Central Bedfordshire Council had been well received, but raised concerns about the lack of clarity for development of south side of the High Street as well as the proposed retail developments on Grovebury Road. It was felt that clear direction and consistency was needed.

The Committee was in agreement that the Central Bedfordshire draft Local Plan be reviewed once drafted.

RESOLVED to note the information.

129/LLP COMMUNITY FORUM UPDATE

The Committee received an update from T Humber of the Community Forum proposing to defer the delivery of the forum to September 2017 due to lack of availability of those involved. The next steering group meeting was due to be held in March.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

130/LLP BUDGET REPORT

The Committee received a nine month budget monitoring report for the period 1 April – 31 December 2016.

RESOLVED to note the budget monitoring report.

The Committee received a detailed report regarding budgets and was asked to consider a transfer of several work responsibilities and non-strategic project lines to another Town Council committee, thereby enabling the Partnership Committee to focus on more strategic, long term matters. Five recommendations were given consideration and it was proposed by Committee that an amendment be made to recommendation 1.5, such that unallocated funds be returned to the Town Council's General Reserves.

RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Finance Committee that the following be approved in respect of the Partnership Committee allocated budgets:

- (i) To transfer future 2017/18 budget allocation and associated work theme responsibilities to the Town Council's Culture and Economic Services Committee for the those areas of work listed below: Town Centre Management: (503), Town Bunting, Independent's Day, Tourism, Christmas Lights, Children's Trail, Community Access Defibrillators.**
- (ii) To transfer existing Earmarked Reserves associated with those work areas listed in resolution (i), with ongoing work that is non-strategic, to the responsibility of the Town Council's Culture and Economic Services Committee, as per budgets lines listed below: Town Centre Management: (970), Signage, Mews & Alleys project, Historic EMR funds, Community Access Defibrillators.**
- (iii) To carry forward all 2016/17 allocated project funds into 2017/18 Earmarked Reserves and transfer to Town Council's responsibility: Town Centre Management: (503), Town Bunting, Independent's Day, Tourism, Christmas Lights, Children's Trail, Community Access Defibrillators, Partnership Contribution.**
- (iv) To carry forward 2016/17 allocated project funds that are yet to be spent into 2017/18 Earmarked Reserves to remain within the Partnership Committee's responsibility – Town Centre Management (503), Business Development (inc. Networking Event), Community Forum.**
- (v) That the unallocated monies identified within Earmarked Reserve 970 (Town Centre Management) be returned to Town Council General Reserves.**

The meeting closed at 22.50 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2017.

Chair

13 APRIL 2017