

**LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL**

**LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 13 APRIL 2017 AT 1930 HOURS**

Present: Councillors           A Brandham – LLTC  
  K Ferguson - LLTC  
  T Morris – LLTC  
  D Bowater – CBC (part meeting)  
  G Perham – LLTC  
  B Spurr - CBC  
  G Tubb – CBC  
  B Walker – CBC  
  C Palmer – LLTC (substituting for E Wallace)

Also in attendance:           M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)  
  V Cannon (Head of Cultural & Economic Services)  
  S Sandiford (Head of Democratic & Central Services)  
  D Prior (LB First)  
  P Curtis (LB First)  
  B Chandler (Chair, LB Connect)  
  T Humber (Spokesperson, Community Forum Steering Group)  
  S Hughes (Community Engagement Manager, Central Bedfordshire Council)

Members of the Public:       8  
Members of the Press:        0

**131/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors A Dodwell and E Wallace (substituted by C Palmer).

**132/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.

**133/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Four members of the public spoke to raise concerns about adult social care and in particular, issues regarding homeless people. Concerns included care for those suffering from mental illness, lack of facilities for homeless people during the daytime and a perceived lack of access to medical attention, wellbeing advice or self improvement opportunities such as studying. It was felt that there

were a number of volunteers willing to get involved and that perhaps improvements could be made to local provision for the homeless.

A brief verbal update was given by T Humber of Churches Together, advising that a new key volunteer for the local homeless service was in place. It was recognised that there had been issues with local provision but a lot of work was being done to implement new processes.

A member of the public and representative of South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth spoke to raise concerns regarding the removal of trees from the High Street, the potential development of the south side of the High Street and the need to support local retailers. The view was expressed that the money spent on use of retail consultants by the local authority showed a disregard for public money, given that previous surveys had taken place.

A brief response was given by the Town Clerk regarding the reasons for removal of dying trees from the High Street and a brief response was given by two councillors to other comments raised.

#### **134/LLP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 16 February 2017.

Minute reference 121/LLP: it was clarified that the concern raised had not been regarding graffiti but regarding the condition of Linslade bridge. This would be followed up.

A typographical error on page 62 was identified and would be corrected.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 16 February 2017 be approved as a correct record and be signed accordingly.**

#### **135/LLP STANDING ITEMS**

The Committee received a brief note from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding enabling delivery in Leighton-Linslade. It was hoped that officers would attend the next meeting in order to provide an update on the situation on land south of the High Street. It was noted that existing retailers on the south side of the High Street had requested involvement in the process, with the hope of facilitating delivery access to existing businesses.

In respect of the aspiration to relocate the taxis from the High Street, it was noted that the formerly proposed location of the turning circle at the multi-storey car park might still be an option, if an agreement could be reached with local retailers regarding delivery access. Information would be passed to the relevant officer at Central Bedfordshire Council to investigate further.

Councillor D Bowater left the meeting at 2020 hours.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

A brief verbal update was given in respect of the High Street Improvement Scheme. It was noted that eleven expressions of interest had been received, nine of which were progressing, with three at the final stage. The final deadline for the last round of expressions of interest was 1 May.

In terms of the Market Town Regeneration Fund projects, the Committee was advised that the market relaunch project was nearing the consultation stage, that invitations to quote had been sent out for the architectural lighting scheme and that electronic signage would be the next project to be progressed.

**RESOLVED to note the information.****136/LLP JOINT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Further to the report provided to the previous meeting of the Committee, it was noted that an informal workshop had now taken place, open to all Town Councillors and ward councillors, in order to review and discuss the proposed new Terms of Reference for joint committees proposed by Central Bedfordshire Council. A proposed response with amendments to the Terms of Reference and a covering letter were put forward to the Committee for consideration.

**RESOLVED to endorse the responses to the proposed Terms of Reference document and the covering letter, to be signed by the Chair and submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council.**

**137/LLP COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN LEIGHTON-LINSLADE**

The Committee received a report regarding funding available as a result of local housing development for generic investment into community facilities. Funds amounted to £50,610.081 and could be spent on capital projects such as an extension, new roof, internal refurbishment, improvements to access or security, or other similar improvements to local community facilities. It was proposed that funds could either be distributed to the Town Council, to local community/voluntary organisations via a grant scheme or a hybrid of both options. Applications would be submitted to the project officer at Central Bedfordshire Council in the first instance, to then be considered by the Committee.

Queries were raised regarding how projects would be managed or overseen, how the scheme would operate and whether the Partnership Committee met frequently enough to determine applications within a reasonable timeframe. It was agreed that flow chart would be created to clarify processes.

**RESOLVED to note the information and to endorse a hybrid approach to the distribution of S106 generic contributions secured for community facilities in Leighton-Linslade.**

**138/LLP COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN**

The Committee received the Objectives and Work Plan for 2016-2017 for noting, as this was the final meeting of the municipal year.

**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. It was proposed to move parking from September to the June meeting, which would also include updates on social care and enabling delivery. It was proposed that an update on business rates be included in the Central Bedfordshire update report at the September meeting.

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

**139/LLP CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE**

The Committee received an update report containing information on community safety, business support and investment, employment and skills, regeneration, leisure, highways, transportation, youth support services, public health, community engagement and social care.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

**139/LLP BUSINESS GROUPS UPDATE**

(a) B Chandler of LB Connect advised that the group was thriving and that members were looking forward to the forthcoming Business Networking Event. The Committee was reminded that all Members were welcome to attend any LB Connect meeting and that this was a standing invitation.

(b) P Curtis, representing LB First, raised concerns regarding the potential change of format of the Christmas Festival event and regarding the removal of trees from the High Street planters.

**140/LLP COMMUNITY FORUM UPDATE**

The Committee was advised that there was no current update from the Community Forum.

**141/LLP BUDGET REPORT**

The Committee received a detailed report regarding budgets, ongoing projects and ongoing commitments.

**RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Finance Committee that the following unspent funds from 2016-2017 be carried forward:**

- (i) £500 (Community Forum 503/4524) into Partnership Committee earmarked reserves**
- (ii) £1,000 (Community Defibrillators 503/4554) into Cultural and Economic Services Committee earmarked reserves**
- (iii) Unspent existing earmarked reserves totalling approximately £31,820 (final figures to be confirmed at financial year end) into Cultural and Economic Services Committee earmarked reserves.**

The meeting closed at 2129 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2017.

Chair

22 JUNE 2017