

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2017 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors G Perham (substituting for A Brandham) – LLTC
 A Dodwell - CBC
 R Berry (substituting for K Ferguson) – CBC
 F Kharawala – LLTC
 T Morris - LLTC
 C Palmer – LLTC
 B Spurr - CBC
 G Tubb – CBC
 B Walker – CBC
 E Wallace – LLTC

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
 V Cannon (Head of Cultural & Economic Services)
 S Sandiford (Head of Democratic & Central
 Services)
 G Borelli (Chair, LB First)
 B Chandler (Chair, LB Connect)
 S Hughes (Community Engagement Manager,
 Central Bedfordshire Council)

Members of the Public: 1
Members of the Press: 0

142/LLP APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor B Walker be appointed Chair of the Committee for 2017-2018. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor B Walker Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2017-2018.

Councillor Walker took the Chair.

143/LLP APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor T Morris be appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for 2017-2018. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor T Morris Vice Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2017-2018.

144/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor A Brandham (substituted by Councillor G Perham), Councillor K Ferguson (substituted by Councillor R Berry), from Jo Martindale (Partnership Officer) and from Tricia Humber (spokesperson for the Community Forum Steering Group).

145/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. Councillor F Kharawala declared a personal interest in the Business Networking event. No dispensations had been requested.

146/LLP PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public and representative of South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth spoke in respect of a stakeholder meeting and a public meeting being held in early July regarding affordable and environmentally friendly housing. In addition, a question was raised in respect of a recent Freedom of Information request made to Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the future development of land south of the High Street. The response received referred to "no Council decision being made". Clarification was sought on the decision making process and how this would feed into the current consultation on the Local Plan. The Chair agreed to seek clarification from Central Bedfordshire Council.

147/LLP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 13 April 2017.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 13 April 2017 be approved as a correct record and be signed accordingly.

148/LLP STANDING ITEMS

- (a) The Committee received a brief note from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding enabling delivery in Leighton-Linslade. Concerns and frustrations were expressed at the perceived lack of progress and the need to establish a clear direction and timescale for development of land south of the High Street. The point was made that the population and demographics in the town had changed significantly over recent years and now represented significant buying power. The Committee acknowledged commercial sensitivity but requested information on recent activity. Queries were raised regarding the delay of the development, the accountability for the project and what learning had been derived to date.
- (b) The Committee gave consideration to the ongoing and longstanding request for relocation of the taxis from the High Street. While it was acknowledged that a temporary or short term solution would help to facilitate the Town Council's

Market Relaunch project, a clear preference for a permanent solution was expressed. A number of options were discussed and the need for enforcement of any solution was emphasised. Information on achievable solutions was requested from Central Bedfordshire Highways and it was noted that the timescale was crucial in achieving the market relaunch project.

- (c) A brief verbal update was given to the Committee in respect of Market Town Regeneration Fund projects (market relaunch, architectural lighting and electronic signage) as well as the High Street Improvement Scheme.
- (d) A brief verbal update was given to the Committee in respect of antisocial behaviour issues and it was recognised that many agencies and partners were involved in making improvements locally. The Committee reiterated its support for a more holistic approach and it was agreed that Central Bedfordshire officers from adult social care would be asked to attend the next meeting.

149/LLP COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES, WORK PLAN AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee received the work plan for 2017-2018 for consideration.

RESOLVED to note the report.

The Committee received a verbal update in respect of proposed amendments to the Joint Committee Terms of Reference. It was anticipated that a workshop would take place in July for Chairs, Vice Chairs and Clerks, prior to an update coming back to Committee at a future meeting.

RESOLVED to note the information.

150/LLP BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

The Committee received a report in respect of the Spring Business Networking Event held in April 2017. It was noted that it was difficult to quantify the success of the event in terms of business generated, as it might be months or even longer before contacts made at the event resulted in a business win. It was recognised that the event was a valuable mechanism for promoting and supporting local businesses and that the attendance numbers as well as the feedback received indicated that the event had been considered worthwhile and successful by those attending.

RESOLVED to note the report and the feedback from the Spring 2017 Business Networking Event.

Committee members expressed a wish to give further consideration to support for local businesses and the possibility of a more holistic approach. The Central Bedfordshire Council update report for the September meeting would include information on business rates and existing support provided to local businesses, including provision of broadband, e.g. in industrial estates. It was suggested that research be undertaken into other options for support and to consider best practice examples from other towns. However, it was recognised that resources to undertake this work were limited.

RESOLVED to await more information on business support in the Central Bedfordshire Council update report in September and to consider wider business support at a future meeting of the Committee.

151/LLP S.106 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS

Further to discussion at the previous meeting, the Committee received a report outlining the available monies for community use and a proposed procedure and application form for use of those funds. It was clarified that funds could only be used for infrastructure improvements to facilities, rather than routine maintenance.

A query was raised regarding the dates by which the specified S.106 funds needed to be spent and it was agreed to clarify this.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the report and agree the process for distribution of S106 generic contributions secured for community facilities in Leighton-Linslade.**
- (ii) That no cap be applied to the amount for which applications could be made.**
- (iii) That a window of at least three months be allowed for applications to be submitted and that the scheme be strongly promoted.**
- (iv) That the final decision on the outcome of applications be made by the Partnership Committee and signed off by Planning at Central Bedfordshire Council.**
- (v) That should any residual monies be available after the first round of applications was agreed, then a second round of applications would be invited.**

152/LLP CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE PARKING STRATEGY

The Committee received the draft Central Bedfordshire Parking Strategy and was asked to consider a response to the current consultation. Key points expressed by the Committee included parking capacity, parking enforcement, clarification on data captured by new car park machines, reinvestment of funds raised by any increase in parking charges, a need for more joined-up thinking on residents' parking schemes to avoid displacement of parking issues and the need to take into account comments submitted in respect of parking on planning applications, which were based on local knowledge.

RESOLVED that a response be submitted to the Central Bedfordshire Parking Strategy consultation as outlined above.

153/LLP BUSINESS GROUPS UPDATE

- (a) B Chandler of LB Connect advised that all members except one were reporting good business. A couple of specific examples of recent success were given.**

- (b) G Borelli of LB First spoke regarding Independents' Day, a day to celebrate and support local independent traders, taking place on Saturday 1 July.

154/LLP COMMUNITY FORUM UPDATE

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

155/LLP BUDGET REPORT

The Committee received a brief report regarding budgets, ongoing projects and ongoing commitments. A number of minor typographical errors were raised.

RESOLVED to note the report.

The meeting closed at 2150 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2017.

Chair

7 SEPTEMBER 2017