

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

SOUTH SIDE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2021 AT 1000 HOURS

Present: Councillors V Harvey
S Owen (Vice Chair)
T Morris
C Palmer (Chair)
S Hemmings

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
V Cannon (Head of Cultural & Economic Services)
M Jahn (Committee Officer)
S Caldbeck (Central Bedfordshire Council)

Members of the Public: 0

01/SS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

02/SS APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor C Palmer be appointed Chair of the South Side Task and Finish Group. There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Palmer Chair of the South Side Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Palmer took the Chair.

03/SS It was proposed and seconded that Councillor S Owen be appointed Vice Chair of the South Side Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Owen Vice Chair of the South Side Task and Finish Group.

04/SS 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.

05/SS QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

06/SS NOTES TO DATE/NEXT STEPS

Sam Caldbeck, Central Bedfordshire Council, informed the group that Stephen Mooring had now moved on and had been replaced by Ingrid Hooley as Head of the Place Delivery Team. He advised members that, as previously reported, a four step process was in place which included an interval service review, commercial market review, consultation with the various landowners and at the end of this the production of an report setting out options for progressing a development, should this be considered feasible. Commercial advisers have been appointed to support the Council in this work. .

Sam Caldbeck confirmed that should development proceed, it would do so in phases with the closest areas to the High Street being focussed on first. This would include the Mayfair 500 development and various portions of land owned by the Council which aside from providing temporary parking to market traders, are not in active use. The group agreed that a multi-purpose facility, which may include creative arts or business facilities, should be looked at as a priority, in terms of helping to diversify and support the town centre economy. Concerns were raised regarding the piecemeal development of the area, however, members were assured that as any development in the southside area would be guided by the sites development brief, a phased approach as opposed to piecemeal or unco-ordinated development would be taken. The vision for the whole area would be adhered to but development would happen in phases.

A request was made for the Development Brief of 2016 to be shared with members of the group and any additions or deletions to this Brief could be noted to give more clarity to the group of the processes to be followed. Areas on the Brief included development of a day centre, relocation of care home, provision of extra car parking and the provision of a multi-functional community facility. Sam Caldbeck advised that the brief could be provided to members, however, as this document was not adopted at the time it was produced, it must be treated as confidential to avoid any confusion.

A request was made to view, virtually, an established community/multi purpose facility to give members ideas of running costs and how it was organised to the maximum benefit of residents and local businesses/organisations. The Rufus Centre in Flitwick was mentioned as a possible virtual visit or the Chippenham Town Council Arts Facility.

A question was raised as to indicative timescales for the development, however Sam Caldbeck informed members at the present time this would not be advisable or possible. The initial piece of work with Cornerstone needed to be completed first and more details could then be known regarding the day centre, care home consultation and discussions with landowners and how the process could develop.

Next Steps

1. Date of next meeting - 15 February, 2021 at 10.00 am.
2. Provision and circulation of 2016 Development Brief and any updates to this listed for members clarification.
3. Virtual session included with either Flitwick or Chippenham.
4. By April – a session with Consultants and an actual visit to a facility to have a hands-on view (restrictions permitting).
5. Sam Caldbeck to invite Ingrid Hooley to the next meeting on 15 February 2021.

The meeting closed at 11.20 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2021.

Chair

15 FEBRUARY 2021

DRAFT