

Notes of the Town Council's Community Development Working Group Meeting held on 15 June 2010, in the Council Chamber, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet.

Present: Chairman - Councillor Neil Shearn(NS).

Members - Cllrs Bartlett(JB), Champion(RC), Curtis(JC), Dunscombe(WD), Height (BH), Kinison(JK), Lockey(CL), Lovell(ML), Marvin(DM), Parham(JP) and Robinson(MR). Mr Richard Froggatt, Chairman of London and Wharfedale.

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming members and guests and an additional welcome to newly elected Town Councillor Jeffrey Curtis before providing a brief on Health & Safety requirements including emergency evacuation and assembly point procedures. Mobile phones were requested to be switched off or to silent mode.

Note CD1. 10/11 Apologies for absence – Cllrs Marsh J & Marsh T(family) and Inchley.

Resolve; Proposed by Cllr NS that the apologies are accepted and recorded.

Note CD2. 10/11 Presentation – Mr Richard Froggatt, Chairman of London and Wharfedale (development partner to the Royal Bath & West of England Society) – Plans currently under discussion for the redevelopment of the Royal Bath Showground.

Mr Richard Froggatt provided a 45 minute presentation which included a question and answer session with members. He provided background information which showed the Society to be a fragile company in a fragile environment but with around 1 million visitors per annum and contributing some 175 million to the economy with an estimated 65% to 75% of this in the local area. He has been involved with the Society for the last three year period and considered the current draft Master Plan which was available in full detail online, as an "100 Acre Opportunity".

The plan was a 120 million pound regeneration focusing on the Rural Economy, with some 1500 jobs and an expected 2 to 2.5 million visitors per annum. The plan includes a new conference facility, a couple of hotels and a Renewable Energy visitors learning centre. The plan would take some 10 to 12 years to fully complete as development would need to be scheduled around existing shows and exhibitions.

Members raised traffic concerns and congestion, the need for improvements to highways infrastructure, a full traffic plan and further improvements and direct links by way of public transport.

The Chairman thanked Mr Froggatt for certainly opening the eyes to their big master plan and looked forward with interest to progress in the matter. All members then provided applause and Mr Foggart then left the meeting.

Note CD3. 10/11 Members Declarations of Interests

West Shepton Playing Fields - Cllr Dunscombe declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest as he is a member of the Skateboard Park Steering Group.

Resolve; that the above Declarations are recorded.

Note CD4. 10/11 Notes & Actions Points of the Previous Meeting

The Notes of the Community Development Working Group meeting held on the 13 April 2010 were considered for accuracy and content.

Resolve: Proposed by Cllr CL, Seconded by Cllr RC by a vote of 8 For and 4 Abstentions that the Notes of the Meeting of the Community Development Working Group held on the 13 April 2010 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Note CD5. 10/11 Matters Arising from the Notes / Action Points

a)	BT Kiosks	The Clerk confirmed that the contract to adopt the three Telephone Kiosks had been signed and was now awaiting confirmation of the sealed document and handover.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr NS that the matter is noted and to be referred to the Properties Portfolio Holder and Service Delivery Committee.

Note CD6. 10/11 Partnership Matters

a)	SCC Environment Maintenance 2010	SCC advises their Grass Cutting, Hedges and banks and weed spraying program for the current year which the Clerk summarised their procedures. Members raised concern and enquired procedures to overgrown private boundaries which obstructed pavements and footpath. The Clerk provided advice as to procedure to be adopted. Cllr JP confirmed that MDC provided an "Over the garden" leaflet which provided supporting information.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr NS by a unanimous vote that the matter is noted. The Clerk is to obtain and provide a copy of the MDC "Over the Garden" leaflet to all Members.
b)	MDC Owned Land	Following Town Councils request MDC have provided mapping of all MDC owned land within the Town. (Mapping available to view only at the TC Offices). Further request submit to clarify which land they are inviting expressions of interest and also to request that the Town Council is afforded first option on any future land within the Town that they are minded to dispose of. Updated information provided following a meeting between the Clerk and MDC Geoff Thompson. (Report attached). Cllr WD thanked the Clerk for provision of the information and confirmed he was now happy with the procedure and that the Town Council would be consulted when needed.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr NS that the matter is noted.
c)	CCTV Control Room Visit	Chris Reeves MDC has invited Clerks and all Cllrs to visit The Mendip CCTV Control Room in Wells, by appointment, same as provided last March. If advised of names and numbers he will organise some convenient dates.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr NS that the matter is noted and names of any Cllrs wishing to attend should be submitted to Chris Reeves MDC direct or through the Clerk.
d)	Flood Defence Scheme	The Clerk provided update to progress, use of Garston Street Land and contractual arrangements. The Clerk in-consultation with Cllr Terry Marsh had approved permission for Wessex Water to divert a sewer under Garston Street land. The Clerk is to undertake a site visit and take images of the land condition prior to hand-over and would do the same procedure when Wessex Water wished to pass back the land and duty of care to the Council. Cllr MR also confirmed that notice had now been given that Lower Lane would be closed for 10 weeks from the 6 July 2010.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr NS that the matter is noted.

e)	Speed Camera Signage	SCC advised removal of some repeater speed camera road signs following review. Signage at each end of a zone / speed limit / area will still remain.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr NS that the matter is noted.
f)	Policing Plan	Updated Policing Plan which sets out the priorities for the Constabulary in the year ahead received. The Chairman of the Authority is standing down at the AGM which is to be held on 23 June 2010. Cllr JB proposed that the Police Beat Officer is requested when possible to attend future Town Council meetings.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr NS that the matter is noted and that the Police Beat Officer is requested when possible to attend future meetings of the Town Council.

Note CD7. 10/11 Community & Leisure Portfolio Matters – Cllr Judy Bartlett

a)	Litter Bin Skateboard Park	The Working Group considered provision of a litter bin at the West Shepton Skateboard Park as requested by PCSO Guy Dury.
	Resolve;	Cllr WD then left the room. Cllr MR considered that there was already a litter bin by the main area and considered that the only other place which the PCSO might wish a further litter bin was at the far end of the playing field but that MR considered this would not be used. Proposed by Cllr RC, Seconded by Cllr BH, by a vote of 10 For and 1 Abstention that due to no substantial information being available the matter should be left as is. Cllr WD then rejoined the meeting.
b)	Royal Mail Box	The Working Group considered following removal of a Mail Box at the previous Tesco store to request Royal Mail to provide a replacement collection box in the area of the highway junction to Amulet Way and Fosse Lane, Shepton Mallet. Cllr DM confirmed that he had already progressed this matter and a Royal Mail Collection Box on a post was to be installed within the next few months
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr JB by a unanimous vote that the matter is noted and following the Royal Mail collection box being installed the Council is to write a thank you letter to Royal Mail.
c)	Bandstand Marathon Project	The event organisers requested possible financial support to this years event. Each concert can cost around £500 to stage. They hope to have the support of a new sponsor for year 2011.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr NS, Seconded by Cllr CL by a unanimous vote that the Town Council support the event by way of free use of the Bandstand facility within Collett Park.
d)	School Crossing Patrol	SM Community Infants School are looking to reinstate and recruit a school crossing patrol and seek consideration of a grant to help fund this posts (note Section 137 powers).
		Some length consideration took place highlighting the safety concerns and the expansion of the SCC Children’s Centre and the urgent need for a pedestrian crossing. Cllr MR confirmed that currently SCC had agreed to undertake a feasibility study but that there were no funds or budget available for possibly the next 2 years.

	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr MR, Seconded by Cllr NS, by a vote of 11 For and 1 Abstention that a one off grant of £500 is provided to support the provision of a school crossing patrol person with the monies being vired from the current Community Project budget heading under Section 137 powers.
e)	Grit Bins Update	17 purchased and monies reclaimed from SCC 16 fitted, 1 spare available in depot Some initial concerns being dealt with from both MDC & Public Liability will be included within Insurance Risk review.
	Resolve;	Several areas were proposed for allocation of the spare grit bin. Proposed by Cllr JP, Seconded by Cllr ML, by a vote of 9 For and 3 Abstentions that subject to approval of MDC and SCC the spare grit bin is to be located at Beech Avenue on the steep slope near the pedestrian steps and about 100 metres from the junction with Coombe Lane. Flourish Homes are to be requested to provide a grit bin on the Castle Court, Pullen Court estate as this was currently un-adopted highway.
f)	Twinning Association	Received Minutes of their meeting 10 May 2010, previously emailed to Cllrs and further copy attached.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr JB by a unanimous vote that the matter is noted.
g)	Amenity Land	Concern lack of progress or maintenance to green space adjacent to junction Commercial Road, Shaftgate Avenue and the Anglo. Land ownership of SCC but boundary disputed as ownership of Anglo (Haskins). Cllr Champion (images provided).
	Resolve;	Cllr JP informed he had been dealing with SCC on this matter about a month ago and had been informed that funding was available and that the landscape works would be put in hand during the third quarter of the current year. Proposed by Cllr JB that the matter is noted.

Note CD8. 10/11 Regeneration Portfolio Matters – Cllr Margaret Robinson

a)	Update	Cllr MR confirmed that a THI meeting was to take place on the 24 June 2010 followed by a meeting of Shepton 21 the following weeks.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr MR that the matter is noted.
b)	Market Place Bollards	The Clerk provided an update to site meetings and discussions with Somerset Highways. Highways have confirmed that matters to remove unwanted parking restriction signage in Town Lane, replace signage to the loading bay in High Street south, provide signage and post to the loading bay in the market place and to provide signage to the Restricted Parking and redo the road linage in the Market Place were currently in hand. Although they had insufficient budget to install bollards between the Market Place and High Street north they did offer the provision that should the Town Council fund the five required bollards at a cost of £927.70 then they would arrange the installation. Once this was completed then their intention was to repair / replaced the cracked paving in the Market Place pedestrian area. Cllr JP informed that the required funding may be available through the THI if an application was submitted.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr JP, Seconded by Cllr RC by a unanimous vote that a recommendation is put to Council to support the provision of bollards to protect the pedestrian area of the Market Place, the Chamber of Commerce are to be consulted on the proposal and a request for the THI

		to consider funding the 5 bollards at a cost of £927.70 is to be submitted to MDC without delay. Hopefully with a response from both the Chamber of Commerce and the THI the recommendation can then be put to Council for consideration at the meeting on the 6 July 2010.
c)	West Shepton Playing Fields	Newly Elected Cllr JC invited consideration to investigation of ways to the long term protection of West Shepton Playing Fields through HRH Prince Williams campaign.
	Resolve;	Cllr RC then left the meeting not to return. Some debate took place as to ways of progressing the matter, Cllr JP when asked was unsure when MDCs Recreation Review would be completed. Proposed by Cllr JB that the matter be placed on the Agenda for full Council on the 6 July 2010 when hopefully more information would be available
d)	Proposed Travellers Site at Old Wells Road	The Clerk informed of some urgency for consideration of late information obtained in regard to a Planning Application under delegated powers to provide a eight plot travellers site at Old Wells Road. Travellers were currently occupation without planning permission. The Town Council offices had received several complaints and concerns from townfolk regarding these proposals. The Clerk had investigated the matter and confirmed that the site was within the parish of Pilton and he had been in discussion with both Pilton and Croscombe Parish Councils. Pilton had receive formal consultaion by MDC and this was to be considered tomorrow at 6pm and Croscombe while not being consulted would review this at their next meeting in early July. The Clerk had now located the responsible Planning Officer Ed Baker at MDC and having obtained a copy of the plans had informed MDC that Shepton Mallet Town Council wished to provide observations and comments as the proposal which impacted directly on the community of the Town. The Clerk provided an appraisal to the proposals and over head projection of the plans.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr WD Seconded by Cllr CL by a vote of 6 For and 5 Abstentions that the Town Council request MDC not to proceed with delegated procedures but to submit the proposals directly to their Planning Board to ensure that full consultations with the community were afforded. The site was in close proximity to residents of Shepton Mallet and complaints and concerns had already been expressed.

Note CD9. 10/11 Agenda for the next meeting – Tuesday 31 August 2010

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Cllr J.M. Marsh

Chairman

Signature; _____

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