



Biggleswade Town Plan Steering Group Minutes of meeting: 16 April 2013

Attendees:

Jose Allwright, Alan Dansey, Paul Day, Sheila Grayston, Rob Green, Trevor Hartwell, Paul Jenkins (Chair), Gerry Lawrence, Hazel Ramsay, Anne Skinner, Madeline Russell, Colin Strange

Apologies:

Pamela Bagnell, Andy Buckley, Doug Hammond, Helen Horner, Dee Royston, Eric Stuart

Guest speakers:

Julie Bonfield, Amanda Cawthorn, Nicola King, Peter Biernis

Agenda item 3: Minutes from previous meeting accepted

Agenda item 4: Hazel Ramsay asked if the position of Secretary had been filled. Anne Skinner replied she would be happy to take on the role once health issues have been resolved

Agenda item 5: Presentations were received from Julie Bonfield, Biggleswade Good Neighbours Scheme; Amanda Cawthorn and Nicola King, Biggleswade Community Safety Group; and Peter Biernis, Big Clean Up. It was agreed that once the BTPSG website relaunches it should include links to community groups including those represented

Agenda item 6: It was agreed the group need to focus on reporting progress on town plan action points.

Action point: Paul Jenkins to send progress document to all members as a basis for reporting

Agenda item 7: Reports from champions

Gerry Lawrence reported that the linear wood is progressing and 280 trees have been planted. A bench has been installed by the Saxon Pool roundabout and an oak chair at Dunton Lane. Shuttleworth Estate has agreed to convert land from Holme Mill to Franklin Mill to create a cycle path from Jordan's to Sainsbury's. Money may be forthcoming from the Co-op Windfarm to develop land to the south of the town. It is hoped work on the Jubilee Wood will go ahead in the Autumn after the archeological survey found nothing. Sheila Grayston reported that Pride in Biggleswade day had been a success. Personal alarms were handed out by police and PCSOs to vulnerable members of society and there was information about recycling. Anne Skinner highlighted the reduction of bus services, in particular the daytime services that have recently been cancelled. Anne also summarised an email exchange she has been having with Larry Hayman at First Capital Connect regarding their use of old rolling stock, lack of information and communication for customers and the impact of changes to scheduling on both commuters and parking in Biggleswade. Anne plans to contact Network Rail to discuss accessibility problems with the platforms and request a feasibility study. Alan Dansey suggested receiving bullet pointed reports from champions in future. Also discussed the possibility of using the BTPSG website as an aggregator for useful Twitter and Facebook accounts. He pointed out that local media channels are being underused and is planning a "how-to" guide for local groups to publicise themselves.

Rob Green reported that Ground Work Luton and Bedfordshire are undertaking a consultation on facilities and services for young people. He has emailed them asking to be kept up to date with feedback.

Agenda items 8: Alan reported he was tidying up the website and while this is proving challenging he has updated the text on the homepage and links to external sites. The new site is under development and will include links to local groups and news channels.

Action point: Group members to send Alan pictures relating to the town plan— good or bad

Agenda items 9: Sheila reported there is an open day planned at Holme Mead Youth Centre on 27 April and they are looking for a patron.

Anne talked about publicising the group through a Saturday market stall or similar event. As charity market stalls are booked up in advance, it was discussed whether the group could have a stall at St Andrews Fete

Cllr Madeline Russell updated the group on progress Biggleswade Town Council (BTC) is making. BTC are in discussion with the Lords of the Manor and Fen Reeves to discuss parking provision in the town, and are in discussion with Aldi regarding their parking restrictions on the north side of their car park. Plans are underway to reverse the traffic flow on Hitchin Street, which traders feel will improve trade.

Action point: Paul to email Jane Parker to ask how the group can book a stall at St Andrews Fete

Next meeting: Monday 10 June 2013 at 19:15