

BIGGLESWADE TOWN PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

Monday 2 August 2010

Biggleswade Town Council Chamber 7.30 p.m.

Present: Gerry Lawrence – Chair, Sheila Grayston, Mike Strange, Andy Buckley, Vic Brunt, Alan Dansey, Mark Ty-Wharton, Helen Horner

Apologies: Eric Stuart, Kim Sadler, Pamela Bagnall, Doreen Evans, Nicholas Titley, Denise Rayner, Jemma McClean

Minutes: Minutes for meetings held on 5 July 2010.

Matters arising: The requested comments from Cllr. Wendy Smith, Mayor of Biggleswade Town Council, were still awaited.

Agenda 5: No volunteers

Agenda 6: Gerry Lawrence advised that there had been a speaker from the PCT who advised that as per the White paper issued on 12 July there would be a reduced role in future for the PCT. It had been confirmed that Biggleswade was still in the top 5 areas of Bedford due for a new Health Centre. The location would be “what suits patients best”. No decisions to date of the actual services to be provided. Cost of “brown site” higher than “green site”. Consultation – 2011, Build – 2012, opening of new centre – 2013.
Feedback from event at Bookworms – info still being received by Savills – quick fixes – to be seeing done – no negative responses to proposed Interchange at Rail Station. Support for bus stops on High Street could reduce parking spaces. Century House to be better used – Hitchin Street/Market Square – better links – need for more parking and happy to pay after 2 hours. Better quality shops wanted. No support for housing in Bonds Lane development.
Martin Thomas of Chamber of Trade has placed a response to the Master Plan on web – Community Site.

Agenda 7: Guest Speaker at Town Council Meeting was Andrew Morgan of the PCT. Confirmed Biggleswade in top 5 in Bedford in need of a new Health Centre. Finance not the issue – difficulty is size of land available within Biggleswade.
Action Plan Tables were approved and Cllr. Wendy Smith, Mayor, to write a paragraph for the Final Report Document.

Agenda 8/9: The Group agreed, after a lengthy discussion, that Bookworms was a very small space and hence would ask for the use of the Town Council Chamber. It was agreed that the event would be held on Saturday 18 September as many members had other commitments for Saturday 11 September.

It was agreed that the public consultation would be on method columns only and hence Jemma would be asked to amend tables in order they could be produced at A1 size – in order members of the public could use “post-it notes” for their comments. It was also agreed to ask Jemma where other groups had these sized tables produced as it was considered unlikely that Stratton School, RSPB would be able to assist. Only other alternative suggested was Lion Press at Sandy.

Sheila would liaise with Rob McGregor, Town Clerk, re use of the Town Council Chamber between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday 18 September.

It was also agreed that Sheila would contact local press and that Mike would arrange for a flier and delivery to all households.

Agenda 10: It was agreed that the Questionnaire Results should be put on the website and that due to costs the only a few hard copies would be distributed to :
Town Council/Point of Presence – Library – Central Bedfordshire Council (Sam Caulbeck)

Mike would produce a Parish Boundary Map and write a Biggleswade history paragraph.

Mark concerned about litter and need to tidy Biggleswade and questions European Law in respect of Litter and the Litter Act.

Andy circulated a “mock-up” of final report cover. The group were impressed with the sample but asked that for consistency the same picture be used as per original Questionnaire and Questionnaire Results documents.

Date of next meeting: Monday 6 September 2010