

BIGGLESWADE TOWN PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

Monday 11 July 2011

Biggleswade Town Council Chamber 7.30 p.m.

- Present:** Gerry Lawrence – Chair, Sheila Grayston, Pamela Bagnall, Alan Dansey, Rob Green, Paul Jenkins, Andy Buckley, Helen Horner, Mike Strange, Nicholas Titley, Jemma McClean, Sam Caldbeck, Cllr. Hazel Ramsay & Cllr. Madeline Russell.
- 2: Apologies:** Kim Sadler, Cllr. Ian Bond, Cllr. Peter Woodward
- 3: Minutes:** Minutes for meetings held on 16 May 2011 were agreed. There were no matters arising.
- 4:** Feedback - Following the issue of copies of the Full Town Plan Report positive responses had been received from the Head Teachers at Holme Mead Middle School (Steve Phillips) and Stratton Upper School (Rob Watson), Neil Spencer – Chair of Fairtrade Association Biggleswade and Andrew Gwilliam – Rights of Way/Countryside Access Team at Central Bedfordshire Council.
- 5:** Gerry Lawrence welcomed Cllr. Hazel Ramsay and noted apologies from Cllrs. Ian Bond and Peter Woodward. He also welcomed Cllr. Madeline Russell who was deputising for her absent colleagues.
- 6:** Sam Caldbeck of Central Bedfordshire Council advised that the Final Document – Master Plan had been discussed by the Overview Committee on 21 June and was being presented to the Executive committee on Tuesday 12 July for adoption. If adopted then the Master Plan report would form part of local planning/development control documents. He also advised that the long requested/awaited roundabout at London Road/The Baulk was under review. Work and funding via Section 278 – Land East of Biggleswade – and hopefully this would go forward within the next year – Basil Jackson is the lead officer. Consultation is in process with the Developers regarding roundabout at Sun Street/Shortmead Street. BTPSG were most disappointed at this advise as both roundabouts were a priority to the people of Biggleswade as borne out in evidence in both the Town Plan and the Master Plan. Sam promised to contact Chris Mollett-Griffin with a request that Rob McGregor, Town Clerk, be given a schedule for works a.s.a.p.

Other issues – Shared Space Scheme for Hitchin Street – this is considered a priority. Transport Interchange may be achievable earlier than anticipated via LXB retail park and possible change of use for Century House, Market Square. A meeting with First Capital Connect and Network Rail is planned within the next week. No guarantee of lifts for access. A park & ride scheme between Town Centre and London Road – new LXB site would be considered as would support to small local businesses to improve shop fronts in the High Street – possibility of Lottery Funds or Section 106 monies.

The group thanked Sam for his very comprehensive report and update of progress.

- 7:** Monitoring of Action Plan Tables – Jemma advised the group to refer to the Constitution of the BTPSG. Following discussion it was agreed that the group would prioritise and refer to the results report and co-ordinate review and responses on all Action Tables. BTPSG would expect the Town Council to be pro-active and hold regular quarterly reviews as a major stakeholder following their adoption of the Town Plan. Gerry & Sheila agreed to undertake the prioritisation and liaise with the Town Clerk and the Mayor of Biggleswade.

8: Any Other Business

Jemma advised that the work of the Good Neighbour Scheme, lead by Justine at BRCC, was going well.

Andy advised that Kal Kwik had asked if any further copies of Full Town Plan Report were required – it was agreed for an additional 50 copies. Andy to organise, and invoice to be sent direct to Finance Assistant at Biggleswade Town Council.

Helen suggested a press release to update residents what has happened to date and that this information should also be put on the website.

Gerry advised that the Town Manager of Baldock had agreed to speak at a meeting of BTPSG later in the year.

Sheila advised that LXB were making a presentation at the Biggleswade Planning Committee Meeting on Tuesday 12 July 2011.

- 9: Date of next meeting:** Monday 12 September 2011

