

BIGGLESWADE TOWN PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

Monday 12 September 2011

Biggleswade Town Council Chamber 7.30 p.m.

Present: Gerry Lawrence – Chair, Sheila Grayston, Pamela Bagnall, Mike Strange, Martin Thomas, Alan Dansey, Jonathan Levantine, Rob Green, Paul Jenkins, Trevor Hartwell, Charlotte Buckley, Andy Buckley. Helen Ramsay, Vic Brunt.

Guest Speakers: Carl Barrand, Nick Alford, Mary Davidson

- 2: Apologies:** Kim Sadler, Cllr. Ian Bond, Cllr. Madeline Russell, Mark Ty-Wharton, Sam Caldbeck
- 3: Minutes:** Minutes for meeting held on 11 July 2011 were agreed. There were no matters arising.
- 4:** Presentation by LXB Partners (Carl, Nick & Mary) in regard to proposed planning application for London Road Retail Park. Retailers on this site will be those who require large premises than is available in Town Centre e.g. Marks & Spenser, H & M, etc. Home Base will remain in its current position and many of the current retailers have said they wish to remain on the site. These proposals should complement not compete with current town centre retailers/facilities. Increased parking facilities for 800 cars plus cycle racks. New buildings will have high insulation and recycled water systems – similar to a scheme in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Good landscaping to whole scheme and trees in London Road will be replaced with mature trees – giving an avenue effect. There is ongoing liaison with Central Bedfordshire Council and house builders to create a new roundabout.
Question/answer session – parking times – job creation – bus links to town centre.
- 5:** Sam Caldbeck of Central Bedfordshire Council was unable to attend the meeting but had advised that the Final Document – Master Plan had been discussed by the Overview Committee on 21 June and was adopted by the Executive committee on Tuesday 12 July. The Master Plan report would form part of local planning/development control documents.
- 6:** Gerry advised that one of the priorities in the Action Tables was the improvement of the riverside walk to Franklins Mill. Although much of the pathway is not in Biggleswade the Town Council should work in liaison with the Water Authority and others to ensure reinstatement of the riverbank and the pathway to enable access from Biggleswade to the new Heritage Centre being created by Bill & David Jordan.

Mark Ty-Wharton had sent in a report from FAB (Fairtrade Association Biggleswade) of their discussions and intentions in regard to the results of the Town Plan Steering Group Action Tables.

7: Any Other Business

It was agreed that the web site renewal be approved at a cost of £40.00. Mike Strange to arrange this and submit invoice to Town Council for payment.

9: Date of next meeting: Monday 14 November 2011