



Biggleswade Town Plan Steering Group Minutes of meeting: 15 October 2012

Attendees:

Sheila Grayston, Rob Green, Paul Jenkins, Gerry Lawrence, Hazel Ramsay, Deirdre Royston, Anne Skinner

Apologies:

Pamela Bagnall, Vic Brunt, Andy Buckley, Charlotte Buckley, Alan Dansey, Mike Fayers, Helen Horner, Nicholas Titley, Sam Vernon, Mark Ty-Warton, Mark Wright

Agenda item 4: Re: AOB, Sheila Grayston confirmed she had met with the Town Clerk (see below)

Agenda item 5.1: Paul Jenkins announced Kim Sadler and Mike Strange had resigned from the group with immediate effect due to plans to move from the area. Please inform Paul if you would like to nominate yourself for this position. If no names are received Paul will make an announcement in local media for nominations

Agenda item 5.2: Paul highlighted areas on the Action Plan where Champions were required. Deidre Royston and Anne Skinner agreed to work together on T4 – T8. Actions T9, C1, C2, C4 still require Champions allocated to them. Please inform Paul if you would like to nominate yourself for this position. If no names are received Paul will make an announcement in local media for nominations

Agenda item 5.4: Hazel Ramsay suggested we need to remind people the Action Plan is a living document, as many people may see it as a finished programme rather than ongoing. She also recommended speaking to local groups to encourage participation

Agenda items 6 and 7: Updates had been received from Alan Dansey, Sheila Grayston and Gerry Lawrence.

Gerry reported positive news from the Joint Committee on the progress of the Green Wheel: Public consultation due for November; an all surface path through the Linear Wood; hazel coppicing has begun; play area using natural materials due to begin November, benches along the path by Christmas; balancing pool to be cleared; tree planting along Chambers Way; the Jubilee Wood has been postponed due to the results of an archaeological survey but planting of 15,000 local trees is due to start in January and a community orchard is being planned. Also the Co-Operative Group have been contacted for a contribution to improving the town near the wind farm – a response is still to be received.

Sheila reported she had a very positive meeting with the Town Clerk where he confirmed the Town Council via the Joint Committee would be highlighting the following action points to Central Bedfordshire Council:

Traffic & Transport

T5 T8 T9 T10 (3) T12 T13 T14 T18 (1st via LXB London Road and 2nd Sun Street

Housing & Economic Growth – Natural Environment

G3 G5 G8 G9 G10 G15 G17 G18 G19

Community Services & Facilities

C2 C3 C14

Alan sent an email updated some of his areas.

Re C10: Alan is in the process of producing a guide to available communication channels. These include the Biggleswade Bulletin and the Biggleswade column in Biggleswade Chronicle which provide easily accessible communication channels; Biggles FM - our local radio station runs an online event diary with regular bulletins on air; on the internet, there is a Biggleswade Local Community site and other local sites such as About My Area which provide contact information for local clubs and associations plus event information etc; the Town Council have a basic web site and are planning a new one. There are active Biggleswade Groups on Social media - facebook, LinkedIn etc. The Tourist Information in Sandy publish a monthly

"What's on Guide"; the Town Council have a public notice board at The Bus Station and are happy to advertise local events there; there is a display board at Saxon Gate Swimming Pool.

Re C3: Plans are underway for the 2012 Christmas lights. The Town Council and Chamber of Trade are working together on this. [Update: A preferred supplier has been chosen and the arrangements are being negotiated by the Town Council]

Re G20: Fairtrade Association Biggleswade's steering group continues to meet regularly. Recent developments are the acceptance of a motion by The Town Council supporting the principles of Fair Trade. Also Edward Peake School are actively working towards Fairtrade status.

Agenda items 8 and 9: These were held over to the next meeting due to a number of Champions not in attendance

Agenda item 10: Paul Jenkins gauged interest in a Steering Group Christmas Dinner. It was agreed he would email all members and arrange a date

Next meeting: Tuesday 15 January 2013 at 19:30