

BIGGLESWADE TOWN PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

Monday 16 May 2011

Biggleswade Town Council Chamber 7.30 p.m.

Present: Gerry Lawrence – Chair, Sheila Grayston, Vic Brunt, Pamela Bagnall, Trevor Hartwell, Alan Dansey, Rob Green, Paul Jenkins

Apologies: Jemma McClean, Mike Strange, Helen Horner, Mark Ty-Wharton, Andy Buckley, Cllr. Ian Bond, Cllr. Hazel Ramsay.

Minutes: Minutes for meetings held on 14 March 2011 were agreed.

Matters arising: No matters arising

Agenda 3: Gerry Lawrence advised that the new members to the BTPSG from the Town Council were to be Cllr. Ian Bond, Cllr. Hazel Ramsay and Cllr. Peter Woodward – regrettably none of them were able to attend. He also expressed disappointment that Sheila Grayston had not been re-elected to the Town Council and that all 3 Cllrs nominated were Conservatives.

Agenda 4: Gerry advised that Sam Caldbeck of CBC had been out on the market square asking people for their opinions as there had been very little input from residents to the latest consultation in regard to the Town Centre Masterplan – only 34 responses received. The report was not issued in May – it had been delayed in view of the local elections.

Agenda 5: Monitoring of Action Plan Tables
Environment – Concerns of the reluctance to extend linear wood on East Relief Road along Saxon Drive to Potton Road. Query final planning approval of how much of linear wood was included. Moat, walled garden and linear wood area would make a local nature reserve. Town Council are concerned they might have to find funds if handed over to them. Wind Farm – gone to appeal and awaiting Government decision. Land to corner of A1/Hills Road (Sainsbury's) part of flood plain but possible development as a hotel.
Crime & Disorder – Trevor Hartwell is now a member of the Independent Advisory Group – Bedford Police.
Community Services – meeting at Ivel Medical Centre planned for 23 May was cancelled and there appears to be no progress regarding a new medical centre for Biggleswade.

It was agreed that Sheila would revise the list of members willing to undertake monitoring and re-circulate to all members of the group.

Agenda 6: AOB: Mike Strange was home following recent major surgery. Pleased to advise all went well and he is making progress. A Get Well Card was circulated for members to sign.

Alan Dansey had offered to be on a Steering Group in respect of Volunteering Group. Andy Buckley is also involved in this via his input at BRCC with lead officer Justine Hunt.

New Town Council representatives to be asked what their input to the Steering Group will be and how they would ensure none of the issues are lost/overlooked. Compare content of Town Centre Report with the Town Plan.

Disappointment at the closure of Recreation Centre but note that Stratton School are working with clubs although some clubs have moved to Sandy Leisure Centre. Difficulties are that the school require payments for 12 weeks in advance and there is no longer casual usage. More casual usage was strongly desired in the Town Plan Questionnaire and now there is less.

It was agreed that Sam Caldbeck, Central Bedfordshire Council, and the Baldock Town Centre Manager should be invited to attend future meetings of the BTPSG. Gerry and Sheila to arrange.

Agenda 7: Date of next meeting: Monday 11 JULY 2011