

BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

10 December 2014 at 6.00 pm

Present: - Councillors Bence (Chairman), Hitchins (Vice-Chairman), Brooks, Mrs Brown, Evans, Mrs Maconachie, Mrs Madeley and Wells.

Councillor Maconachie was present for part of the meeting.

8. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Bower.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer has advised Members of interim arrangements to follow when making declarations of interest. They have been advised that for the reasons explained below, they should make their declarations on the same basis as the former Code of Conduct using the descriptions of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Reasons

- The Council has adopted the government's example for a new local code of conduct, but new policies and procedures relating to the new local code are yet to be considered and adopted.
- Members have not yet been trained on the provisions of the new local code of conduct.
- The definition of Pecuniary Interests is narrower than the definition of Prejudicial Interests, so by declaring a matter as a Prejudicial Interest, that will cover the requirement to declare a Pecuniary Interest in the same matter.

Where a Member declares a "Prejudicial Interest" this will, in the interests of clarity for the public, be recorded in the Minutes as a Prejudicial and Pecuniary Interest.

Councillors Brooks and Wells declared a general personal interest in the items on the agenda as members of the Bognor Regis Pier Trust.

10. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2014 were approved by the Subcommittee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11. POLICY SITE 6 ADVISORY GROUP – 14 AUGUST & 8 OCTOBER 2014 [Exempt – Paragraph 3 – Information Relating to Business Affairs]

The Chairman agreed that the notes of the above meetings could be circulated to Members as a matter of urgency to enable Members to be updated on various matters relating to Policy Site 6.

12. PRESENTATION BY THE BOGNOR REGIS TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Chairman welcomed Mr Toyubur Rahman to the meeting, who was in attendance to give a presentation on his role as the Bognor Regis Town Centre Manager

Mr Rahman advised that the role focused entirely on the town centre and that he worked with the public/private partnership that had been established to improve the vision for Bognor Regis. He had made contact with many businesses and individuals in the town to hear their views and comments and was pleased to advise that many were fully supportive, including Butlins and the University of Chichester. He outlined some of the plans for the future and also gave a summary of projects that had been undertaken to date. The aspiration was for Bognor Regis to become a premier seaside town which could embrace modernity.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rahman for his brilliant presentation and enthusiasm and Members then participated in general discussion on a number of issues which included:-

- Upgrading of the CCTV in the town centre to reduce vandalism, anti-social behaviour, etc
- Measures to increase footfall, which would encourage companies to invest in the town
- The need for Bognor Regis to have a thriving night time economy
- How the free car parking scheme had benefited the town

13. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

The Economic Development Manager (EDM) presented the Position Statement and comment was made on the following:-

- **Enterprise Bognor Regis:** The EDM advised that, with Rolls-Royce Motor Cars coming to Bognor Regis, new interest in the site from potential developers had been stimulated. Formal consultation on the Local Development Order would commence early in the New Year and it was anticipated the Order would be made in the middle of 2015, which was good news as it would speed up the planning process.

Subject to approval at the next meeting

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars had recently announced they would be offering 16 new apprenticeship opportunities for young people at their Goodwood plant and the Council would be playing an active role in encouraging local take up of the places.

- **Regis and Hothampton Sites** – Enquiries were being received about the forthcoming consultation and some very exciting ideas were coming forward.
- **Seafront Strategy** – A project working group was being set up to look at the feasibility of developing the Beach on the Beach project. More detail would be provided at the next meeting.
- **University of Chichester** – the outcome of the Coast to Capital bid for Growth Deal funding was still awaited.
- **Town Centre Initiatives** – Comments were made around snagging issues which were still outstanding with regard to the London Road Public Realm Enhancements – these would be resolved under the terms of the contract.

Discussion also took place with regard to the proposed changes to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place in the London Road precinct. New proposals supported by both traders and public consultation had been put forward, however, the West Sussex County Council process for such changes was very slow. Members requested that officers work with the WSCC officers and the Bognor Observer to remind people that traffic was not permitted in the London Road precinct currently under the terms of the temporary TRO.

A request was made that the Public Realm Committee should be reconvened to enable Members to input into the decision making process. However, due to a number of factors, this was not seen as practical but it was agreed that an informal meeting of the former members of the Committee would be arranged for February 2015 to share with them the detail of the project and to keep them updated with progress.

- **Bognor Regis Regeneration Board** – Next meeting of the Board was scheduled for January 2015.

The Subcommittee noted the remainder of the report.

(The meeting concluded at 7.32 p.m.)