

Subject to approval at the next Subcommittee meeting

BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

22 June 2015 at 6.00 pm

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

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Ambler.

2. 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.

Councillor Mrs Madeley declared a personal interest should any discussion take place in respect of the new Hotham Park Café as it was her company that had installed the lighting.

Councillor Wells declared a personal interest should any discussion take place in respect of the Pier Trust as he was a director of the Trust.

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3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2015 were approved by the Sub-Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. START TIMES

The Subcommittee

RESOLVED

That the start times of meetings for the remainder of 2015/16 be 6.00 p.m.

5. PRESENTATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER

(During the course of debate on this item, Councillors Bower and Wells declared a personal interest as members of the Development Control Committee, which would be considering any future planning applications. They stated they would reserve their position.)

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Ms Romy Jones, Strategic Development Planner, and Mr Peter Tierney, Director of Estate Management, from the University of Chichester, who were in attendance to give a briefing on the proposals for the Engineering and Digital Technology Park.

Ms Jones highlighted that the District presently suffered from a low wage economy with low value jobs but that there was the potential to develop high value manufacturing through existing SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and creative digital technology. The Engineering and Digital Technology Park would provide the means to greatly enhance the skills base of the area and encourage new business into the District. It was envisaged that the design would provide a gateway development with a high profile – a modern building for a modern university.

Ms Jones stressed that the University wished to involve the local community and a formal consultation exercise would be undertaken in September 2015, with feedback being very much welcomed. Work on the building had to commence by March 2016 and it was envisaged that the park would be operational by September 2017.

Mr Tierney then informed the Subcommittee of the brief and consultant appointments; development of design solutions; impacts; and the outline timetable.

Following the presentation, Members participated in a question and answer session with Ms Jones and Mr Tierney which covered:-

- Encouraging the use of the facilities and ensuring that the building became an enabler

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- Student accommodation within the campus
- Access to the campus and car parking issues
- The impact of traffic on Felpham Way

The Subcommittee very much welcomed the University's investment in Bognor Regis by way of this development and the Chairman thanked Ms Jones and Mr Tierney for their attendance and interesting presentation.

6. BOGNOR REGIS TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

(During the course of discussion on this item, Councillor Wells declared a personal interest as a business owner in the town.)

The Sub-Committee received a report from the Senior Regeneration Officer which provided a comprehensive update on the public realm scheme being delivered in Bognor Regis town centre. She was pleased to advise that, together with the work being done by the Town Centre Manager in organising events, etc, it would appear that the works completed so far were achieving the key aim of attracting more and higher spending visitors to the town centre.

Having welcomed the work that had been and was being undertaken, the Subcommittee participated in a brief discussion and then noted the contents of the report.

7. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

The Head of Economic Regeneration presented the Position Statement and comment was made on the following:-

- **Enterprise Bognor Regis** – A press release would be prepared in relation to the topping out ceremony at the new Rolls Royce factory.
- **Seafront Strategy** – It was accepted that the Concessions report from 2013 needed to be revisited in light of the current lack of concessions along the seafront.
- **Butlins** No update had been received from Butlins. A request was made that Butlins should consider moving its entrance further into the resort to alleviate vehicles queuing on Felpham Way as there was a huge impact on traffic in the vicinity on check-in days.
- **Hotham Park Café** – This was now open.
- **Old Town Creative Hub** – Comment was made that the County Council should look to improve the road around Norfolk Street due to the cobbles. Work was being progressed to improve the appearance of the No. 18 Club initiative.
- **Railway Station** - Southern Rail were committed to refurbishing the station.

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The Subcommittee also received a brief verbal update from Councillor Bower regarding the Bognor Regis Relief Road. Work had been delayed due to very high winds, making it dangerous to put the 80 tonne beams in place for the viaduct. Consequently the target date for completion of the road had been moved to March 2016. A press release would be prepared to explain the delay.

The Subcommittee noted the remainder of the report.

(The meeting concluded at 7.45 p.m.)