

Subject to approval at the next Subcommittee meeting

BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

23 November 2015 at 6.00 pm

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

Note: Councillors Bence, Bower and Mrs Madeley were absent from the meeting during consideration of the matters referred to in Minute 15 (part).

8. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Wells.

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 Bower, Mrs Maconachie and Maconachie declared a personal interest in any items on the agenda that might involve discussion on upcoming planning applications as they were all members of the Development Control Committee. They reserved their right to speak.

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10. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2015 were approved by the Subcommittee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11. THE ARUN LOCAL ENTERPRISE AND APPRENTICESHIP PLATFORM

In the absence of the Business Development Manager, the Head of Economic Regeneration was pleased to present this report which provided the details of how Section 106 funding from Sainsburys would be spent to work “towards the delivery and promotion of business enterprise provision in the vicinity of the site under Arun’s economic development powers”.

Based on previous delivery and learning, this scheme had been adapted and refined to better meet local small business needs and offered a package of support that would provide bespoke and productive outcomes. The project would offer a range of support to ‘start up’ and small businesses in the area; small grants to local businesses; and apprenticeship wage subsidies to stimulate the creation of new apprenticeship opportunities and to encourage businesses to invest in training their workforce of the future.

In participating in some debate on the matter, a request was made that feedback from the University/colleges/businesses should be actively encouraged to understand if apprenticeships lead to jobs so that the true value of the initiative could be ascertained, particularly as this had not happened in the past. It would be interesting to know what difference such support made and a proper evaluation of the benefits would be useful. Monitoring of the other two elements of the scheme would also be welcomed.

In noting the report, the Subcommittee also supported the aspirations of the Arun Local Enterprise and Apprenticeship Platform.

12. BEACH ON THE BEACH, BOGNOR REGIS

The Beach on the Beach pilot project had been opened for the duration of the summer of 2015 to provide a free activity for small children on the seafront. The Senior Regeneration Officer was pleased to advise the Subcommittee by way of this report that the initiative had been well received and well used by both local residents and visitors.

In line with the Full Council resolution made at its meeting on 15 July 2015, whereby the sum of £40,000 had been allocated to the Beach on the Beach project and authority delegated to the Subcommittee to come to a final decision as to whether it should be retained and extended, the Subcommittee was now being requested to consider the future of the facility. The Senior Regeneration Officer highlighted that the allocated funding would be used to pay for the “winterisation” of the project and would provide ongoing maintenance for several years; however, Members needed to be aware that

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funds would need to be identified to extend and improve the project in the future.

During the course of discussion, the need to provide seating was suggested for parents whilst their child/children were playing. Comment was made that something more exciting than flags could be used to identify the location from a distance, e.g. a kite with a bucket and spade logo. Further general observations were made regarding the width of the surrounding decking; depth of the sand; and the need to provide some sort of shade, all of which were noted by the Senior Regeneration Officer.

As stated above, £40,000 had been allocated to Beach on the Beach and it was agreed that officers would look at the implications of up to 4 years of maintenance and operating costs being taken from that, with the financial outcome being agreed with the Chairman.

The Subcommittee expressed their support for the initiative and then

RESOLVED

That the retention, extension and improvement proposals detailed within the report for Beach on the Beach be approved, as set out at Minute 96 from the meeting of Full Council on 15 July 2015.

13. BOGNOR PIER TRUST

The Senior Regeneration Officer presented this report which sought Members' support for the aims of the Bognor Pier Trust to secure the long term future of the pier by way of submission of a Heritage Lottery Fund Bid. Formal support was required from the local authority as part of the bid process. Members were advised that if the bid was successful, it was being suggested that the Council could assist with procurement and tender support and that any such support would not create a risk for the Council.

Members participated in a lengthy debate and expressed concerns around the level of operational support that was being sought and risks to the Council. It was queried that if the Pier Trust did not succeed with their Heritage Lottery Fund Bid, would the Council still provide that operational support. Clarification was given by the Senior Regeneration Officer and the Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration that any risk would be borne by the owner of the pier and by the Pier Trust when they took it over on behalf of the community. They also confirmed that the support was not about money but about making available the expertise of officers to offer assistance with the Coastal Revival Fund bid. If it was successful, the grant criteria stated that the Council had to be the accountable body, which had been previously approved via an ICM (Individual Cabinet Member).

Due to the concerns expressed, it was proposed and duly seconded that the recommendation be amended to make it quite clear that the Council's support was linked to the Heritage Lottery Fund Bid, as follows:-

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“the Council supports the Bognor Pier Trust in its aim to secure the long term future of the pier via the Heritage Lottery Fund Bid”.

The Subcommittee

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL

That the Council support the Bognor Pier Trust in its aim to secure the long term future of the pier via the Heritage Lottery Fund Bid.

14. BOGNOR REGIS TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

The Subcommittee received a report from the Senior Regeneration Officer which provided an update on the public realm scheme being delivered in Bognor Regis town centre.

The Subcommittee participated in a brief discussion and then noted the contents of the report.

15. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

(Councillors Bower, Mrs Maconachie and Maconachie redeclared their personal interest insofar as any discussion might relate to planning issues that might be considered by the Development Control Committee.)

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

- **Enterprise Bognor Regis** – The Local Development Order had been approved at Full Council on 11 November 2015.
- **Regis and Hothampton Sites** – A way forward had been agreed by Full Council at its meeting on 11 November 2015 and Members welcomed the fact that matters were now progressing. Concerns were raised that the packages detailed in the report to Full Council should not be seen as an opportunity by developers to cherry pick the profitable schemes to the detriment of community projects. However, the Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration stressed that there was still a lot of work to be undertaken on costs and the finer details, which would come back to Members in due course.
- **Town Centre Initiative** – Members were advised that Bognor Regis had been shortlisted for the final of the national Great British High Street competition to find the most improved coastal seaside town. Voting had now closed and the result would be announced on 30 November 2015. Mr Toyubur Rahman, the Town Centre Manager was highly commended for his work in revitalising the town and it was hoped that efforts to relocate his office would progress quickly.
- **Seafront Strategy** – a report would be brought to Committee within the next 6 months.

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- **Butlins** – the Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration advised Members that, following a recent meeting with Butlins, they had indicated that they would like to give a presentation to the Council in the New Year.
- **Old Town** – Following comment, the Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration stated that he would ask the Enforcement Officer to look at 2-4 Waterloo Square to improve the appearance of those properties under Section 215 powers.

The Subcommittee noted the remainder of the report.

(The meeting concluded at 7.45 p.m.)