

Subject to approval at the next Subcommittee meeting

BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

8 June 2016 at 6.00 pm

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

Councillors Brooks and Oppler were also present at the meeting.

1. 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 Wells declared a personal interest in any items on the agenda that might involve discussion on the Bognor Regis Pier as he was a member of the Bognor Pier Trust.

Councillors Hitchins, Bower, Mrs Maconachie and Maconachie declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7, Bognor Regis Seafront Improvements, as they were all members of the Development Control Committee and live planning applications would be coming forward. They reserved their right to partake in any general discussion on the matter.

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2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2015 were approved by the Subcommittee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. TRIBUTE

Tribute was paid to former Councillor Andy Evans, who had been a long standing member of the Subcommittee and who had recently passed away. Information was given on the details of his funeral which was being held on 9 June 2016.

4. START TIMES

The Subcommittee

RESOLVED

That the start time of meetings for the remainder of 2016/17 remain at 6.00 p.m.

5. BOGNOR REGIS TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Toyubur Rahman, the Bognor Regis Town Centre Manager, who was in attendance to give a presentation on progress over the past year towards achieving the objectives and overall vision of making Bognor Regis a premier seaside town.

The Subcommittee received a detailed presentation which outlined a number of initiatives that had been undertaken and the works in progress, e.g.

- Improvements to business frontages to enhance the appearance of the town centre
- Business Wardens would be operating in the town centre to help deal with the problem of shoplifting
- The Aerial Birdman event in London Road received good press coverage and feedback from the stores
- The Southdowns Folk Festival in September would be moving from Hotham Park to venues in the town centre
- The town had been finalists in the Great British High Street Award
- Empty shops were down from a high of 35 in 2012 to 21 and there was encouraging interest from businesses looking for premises in the town
- Work was ongoing in developing a BID (Business Improvement District), with the aim of it being up and running from April 2017.

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Members then participated in a question and answer session with the Bognor Regis Town Centre Manager which centred around pavements; empty shops; and funding from West Sussex County Council. It was suggested and agreed that it would be useful to invite a relevant officer from the County Council to a future meeting of the Subcommittee to inform Members of their current approach.

The Bognor Regis Town Centre Manager was thanked for his positive presentation and for the approach he was taking in improving the profile of Bognor Regis.

6. BOGNOR REGIS SEAFRONT IMPROVEMENTS

(With the agreement of the Subcommittee, Councillors Brooks and Oppler also made comment on the proposals.)

The Senior Regeneration Officer presented this report which set out the detail of a Seafront Delivery Plan which had been created for Bognor Regis, drawing together all existing strategy, policy and consultation material, also setting out proposals for future actions to deliver improvements in a phased and holistic manner. A correction was made to the dates in the report at paragraph 1b, namely that the first Cabinet meeting referred to should be November 2013 and not September 2013 and the second Cabinet meeting should be November 2015 and not September 2015.

In discussing the matter, comment was made that this was a good report and it was exciting to be able to progress some of the initiatives mentioned as there was a budget already available. A note of caution was expressed about including proposals for the Place St Maur at this stage. An assurance was given by the Senior Regeneration Officer that what was set out at section 2.4 of the report was in Phase 2 and by that time more would be known about what was happening with the Regis Centre site. In addition the proposal would be subject to planning approval.

Members particularly welcomed the initiatives relating to the siting of beach huts near Butlin's and the replacement of the underground toilets on the Promenade. It was suggested that the refurbishment of the Foreshore Office building could possibly be redeveloped to provide public toilets, however, it was reported that the building was an ex-beach shelter and the structure was worn out and high maintenance. Following some general comments from Members, the Senior Regeneration Officer turned their attention to the recommendations and advised that recommendation 3 should in fact be a resolved item as Full Council had already delegated authority to the Subcommittee to action delivery of the Play Area.

Following consideration, the Subcommittee

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RESOLVED

That procurement or commissioning of works to design and deliver the Play Area within the funding approved by Full Council in July 2015, as described in section 2.2.5 of the report, be approved; and

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL – That

- (1) the Seafront Delivery Plan be approved;
- (2) delivery of the 1st and 2nd phase elements within the Seafront Delivery Plan (specified at section 2.4 of the report) be undertaken by officers, stakeholders and partners over a period of time, subject to the necessary funding being available and other statutory approvals being obtained;
- (3) authority be given to the Head of Legal and Administration to enter into any legal agreements required in the delivery of elements of the Seafront Delivery Plan;
- (4) licence/lease terms to be agreed by the Head of Finance & Property, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance as necessary, in line with the Council's approved Scheme of Delegation; and
- (5) existing seafront concession licences/leases be further extended as required to fit the proposed programme for delivery of the proposed improvement works.

7. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

In considering the position statement, a question was asked with regard to interest in the various sites comprising Enterprise Bognor Regis. The Head of Economic Regeneration responded that the Oldlands Farm section now housed Rolls Royce and planning approval had been granted for another part of that site, there was also significant interest in the Salt Box site.

The Subcommittee noted the report.

(The meeting concluded at 7.45 p.m.)