

Subject to approval at the next Subcommittee meeting

BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

26 June 2017 at 6.00 pm

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

Councillors Ambler and Brooks were also present at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Bower and Mrs Brown.

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 Wells declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8, Position Statement in the event of any discussion on Old Town and Pier.

Councillor Dillon also declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8, Position Statement, in the event of any discussion on the Regis and Hothampton sites.

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3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2017 were approved by the Subcommittee 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 2017/18 be 6.00 p.m.

5. PRESENTATION ON PROGRESS OF PLANS FOR HOTHAM PARK

The Greenspace & Cleansing Contract & Development Manager introduced Mr Mark Hogan of ISS Facility Services Landscaping to the meeting as he was in attendance to give a presentation on his company's proposals for an adventure golf feature in Hotham Park. ISS had been appointed by the Council to enhance and improve its outdoor recreational services and, following consultation with the Town Council and the Hotham Park Heritage Trust, a new landmark facility was being proposed to replace the existing putting green.

Mr Hogan advised that the new state of the art facility would attract people into Bognor Regis and the Park and much thought had gone into ensuring that a feature was provided that would maintain a balance between attracting people in and preserving the legacy of Sir Richard Hotham. The plans for Development Control had been redefined following consultation and a decision was expected around 12 July. With a build time of between 12 – 14 weeks, it was anticipated that the adventure golf feature could be in place by late Autumn, bearing in mind the already scheduled events taking place and that any work undertaken must cause the least possible disruption. He was also pleased to inform Members that there had been overwhelming support from the interested parties.

The Subcommittee welcomed the investment in the Park and felt it was an exciting project for Bognor Regis and would greatly benefit the town. In the course of a short discussion, Member comment was made that a basic offer of refreshment (teas and coffees) should be made available for people waiting for children using the facility as they would not be able to go to the Hotham Park Café as it was too far away and out of sight. This was felt to be particularly important as this was going to be a year round facility and people waiting on colder days would appreciate a hot beverage. An officer response was given that a review of provision would be undertaken after 12 months.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hogan for his attendance at the meeting and Members looked forward to the opening of the new facility.

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6. SUMMARY OF TOURISM SUPPORT CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Tourism Business Development Officer presented a comprehensive report which set out the key activities that were either led by the Council or where it played a significant delivery role in supporting tourism in the District. She highlighted that resources had changed but that the Council worked hard across several departments to ensure that the Arun District was an attractive, thriving area in which to live, work and visit. A range of delivery partners also helped to publicise the District and provide facilities.

The Subcommittee participated in a detailed discussion and put forward a range of suggestions for improving accessibility to information for residents and visitors alike to find out about events and attractions in the District. These suggestions were welcomed and noted but the Group Head of Economy reminded Members that the Tourism Team consisted of only one full-time member of staff and, whilst her knowledge and commitment was acknowledged and appreciated, there was a limit to what she could do.

As resources had changed, the Tourism Business Development Officer was trying to think creatively and was looking, amongst other things, at the possibility of training volunteer ambassadors in the towns to “spread the word”. The use of social media platforms as a tool had greatly increased and there was also merit in having discussions with the University of Chichester to see if their students could help with developing an App to increase the profile of Bognor Regis. Commercial App providers were also being investigated.

The Tourism Business Development Officer undertook to provide Members with information relating to the number of beds for visitors in the Town, excluding Butlins, as there was a concern that this was reducing.

The Chairman thanked the Tourism Business Development Officer for her interesting and informative report and expressed appreciation for the work she was involved with.

*(Prior to considering the following item, Councillors Wells and Dillon had declared a personal interest and remained in the meeting.*

*During the course of discussion and as mention was made of the BID ballot being undertaken in Bognor Regis, Councillor Wells declared a personal interest as he owned a business in the town.)*

7. POSITION STATEMENT

In receiving and noting the Position Statement, the Subcommittee was advised and made comment on the following:-

**Enterprise Bognor Regis** – Planning Officers were still tied up with preparing the Local Plan for the Examination in Public and so work on this was delayed until resources could be released.

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**Regis & Hothamton Sites** – a number of meetings were being scheduled as follows:- (i) with the agents of Whitbread to discuss future plans for the site; (ii) Arts Council in July to look through proposals; (iii) Chichester University Hub; LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) re possible grant funding. Members heard that there was a huge amount of work going on behind the scene.

**Town Centre Initiatives** – It was hoped that the outcome of the BID process would be successful as it was important to continue with Town Centre Management.

**University of Chichester** – the lock out period of 6 months had now expired on the London Road lorry/coach park site for student accommodation and the Council was considering its options.

**Placebranding** – the original survey sent out was considered to be too complicated. A new survey had now been prepared and the Group Head of Economy asked everyone in attendance to look at and complete it to enable the feedback to be assessed.

(The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.)