

Subject to approval at the next Subcommittee meeting

BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

25 June 2018 at 6.00 pm

Present: - Councillors Mrs Madeley (Vice-Chairman – in the Chair), Bence, Bower, Mrs Brown, Charles, Dillon, Reynolds and Stanley.

Councillor Reynolds was absent from the meeting during consideration of the matters referred to in Minutes 1 – 6 (part).

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Stanley to the meeting as a recently appointed member of the Subcommittee.

2. APOLOGY

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Hitchins.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was made:-

Councillor Stanley stated – “I wish to make this meeting aware that I may have made public statements in meetings and in written submissions that I did not support the regeneration proposals for Bognor Regis, and more recently for the Hothamton site. These were my views at that time. However, I have an open mind regarding this matter and I will listen and consider all the relevant issues and interests presented at this meeting and I confirm that I will reach my decision based on merit and not bias.”

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2017 were approved by the Subcommittee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. START TIMES

The Subcommittee

RESOLVED

That the start times of meetings for the remainder of 2018/19 be 6.00 p.m.

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(In the course of consideration of the following item, Councillors Bower, declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Development Control Committee as reference was made to future planning applications. He reserved his right as to the detail of what might come forward and remained in the meeting and took part in the debate and vote.)

6. BOGNOR REGIS SEAFRONT

The Senior Regeneration Officer presented this report which provided an update on the progress of regeneration works on Bognor Regis Seafront between the Pier and Butlin's, together with an outline of future plans. Advice was given on the reasoning behind having a Style Guide and Stalls Zone layout plan, which would ensure that buildings in a modern and timeless design style would be delivered in a co-ordinated manner and that the commercial offer on the seafront would be greatly improved. Retention and improvement of the listed Bandstand would be integral to the regeneration work and it was proposed to make a grant application to the Coastal Revival Fund for these improvements.

The Subcommittee was advised that the "Beach on the Beach" sand play area and the new recently completed play area "Play on the Beach" were extremely successful. In addition, following granting of planning permission, work had commenced on the installation of the base for the new public toilets on the promenade and it was anticipated that these would be open in time for the summer holidays.

In considering the item, a request was made for investigations to be undertaken as to whether access down to the beach could be improved as it was extremely difficult for a lot of people to navigate over the shingle. An officer response was given that this matter had previously been raised and was being looked into by the Bognor Regis Town Council, which had been invited to submit proposals to achieve this.

Members participated in general discussion which covered design concept; use of the bandstand; anticipated delivery timescale; and hours of trading for the concessions. Officers responded to questions as they were raised.

The Subcommittee then

RESOLVED

That the grant application for up to £50,000 funding from the Coastal Revival Fund be supported for the improvement of the bandstand; and

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RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL – That

- (1) the proposed Style Guide be approved;
- (2) the proposed Stalls Zone layout be approved;
- (3) the delivery of the Council funded catering unit be approved, as set out in the report;
- (4) authority be delegated to the Director of Place to place orders as required to construct the catering building, subject to planning approval;
- (5) authority be delegated to the Director of Place to sign off leases/licences required to appoint a suitable catering operator.

7. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

In receiving and noting the Position Statement, particular comment was made with regard to the following:-

Butlin's – a request was made that those local residents living in close proximity to the new swimming pool development be given use of the pool on completion. The Group Head of Economy said that the matter would be raised through the Regeneration Board meeting.

Wider Economic Strategy/Policy – The Group Head of Economy advised that the signing of the Growth Deal partnership document with West Sussex County Council would take place in the summer. In addition, the Leader stated that the Strategic Economic Plan was being signed this week, which was an important document as it aligned with the Government's Industrial Strategy and that much of central government funding for regeneration work would be distributed through the LEP (Local Economic Partnership) in the future.

Thanks were extended to the Economic Regeneration Team and the Property & Estates Manager for their efforts in improving the profile of Bognor Regis and for the positivity that was being generated.

(The meeting concluded at 6.50 p.m.)