

Subject to approval at the next meeting

LITTLEHAMPTON REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

10 October 2018 at 6.00 pm

Present: - Councillors Bicknell (Chairman), Mrs Ayres, Cates, Mrs Neno, Dr Walsh and Warren.

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Dingemans and Buckland.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:-

- Councillor Dr Walsh declared his standing personal interest as a member of Littlehampton Town Council and West Sussex County Council.
- Councillors Warren and Mrs Ayres declared a personal interest as a member of Littlehampton Town Council.

9. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018 were approved as a correct record by the Subcommittee and signed by the Chairman.

10. LITTLEHAMPTON REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

(During consideration of the following item, Councillors Mrs Ayres, Dr Walsh and Warren redeclared their personal interest and remained in the meeting)

In receiving and noting the Position Statement, particular discussion took place on the following:-

- **Littlehampton Town Centre Public Realm Scheme** – The Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer advised that no announcement had yet been made with regard to the Council's bid for Coastal Communities funding. £2.3m had been applied for to cover both phases.
- **Town Centre Safety** – Detailed discussion took place on a number of issues:-

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- Following a lapse in the running of the warden service, Members were advised that from 15 October 2018 the service would be resumed.
- Concerns were raised that actions to deal with anti-social behaviour were having little effect as the problem would appear to be getting worse – incidents were cited. Officer advice was given that regular meetings were being held with the police to try to address the issues.
- CCTV and monitoring of that was discussed.
- Town Centre Chaplaincy would be providing a patrolling service during the day, initially on Fridays and then may be Saturdays. The purpose would be to engage with individuals and commence communication with them to try to alleviate the problems being experienced.
- The positive outcomes needed to be publicised, rather than just focussing on the negative impacts all the time.
- Discussion was had around county drug lines and the need to safeguard young people from being drawn into drug dealing and whether the youth using the Flintstone Centre were vulnerable to that.
- **Town Traders Partnership** - Members were advised that the General meeting of the Traders Partnership had been changed to 30 October 2018. A new communications app was being demonstrated on Friday 12 October which would assist with communication gathering in the town.
- **Markets & Events** – Members were extremely concerned to learn that the cost of the street trading consent held by the Town Centre Manager had risen from under £300 to £1,850, which could seriously impact on the viability of holding the monthly Artisan Market, subject to the Town Centre Management post being renewed. It was questioned why a community event to increase footfall and help the vitality of the town centre should be subject to the same charge as the commercial weekly market. It was agreed that the Licensing Committee be asked to look into the matter at its next meeting.
- **Tour of Littlehampton Enterprise Hub** – Members were reminded of the tour taking place on Tuesday 23 October 2018 and were encouraged to attend.
- **Littlehampton Town Centre Management** – the Subcommittee was advised that the Town Centre Manager was attending a meeting with the Littlehampton Station Manager on Monday 15 October to discuss a number of issues.
- **Statement on the Look & Sea Centre** – serious concerns were expressed by Members that no consultation or scrutiny had been undertaken prior to the matter being considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 15 October 2018, where a decision was to be taken on the future of the building. The Centre had been the “jewel in the crown” for Littlehampton and linked the station, centre and seafront for visitors and residents alike. It was felt that a visitor information facility should be maintained and that any new business there should not just be a restaurant/bar. Following discussion it was

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agreed that the Chairman would present the views of the Subcommittee to Cabinet at its meeting on 15 October 2018.

11. LITTLEHAMPTON TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT [Exempt – Paragraphs 1& 3 – Information Relating to Individuals & Business Affairs]

(During consideration of the following item, Councillors Mrs Ayres, Dr Walsh and Warren redeclared their personal interest and remained in the meeting)

The Group Head of Economy presented this report which informed on the options to be considered due to the ending of contract arrangements for the post of Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer. She also asked Members to consider amended wording to the recommendations, which had been refined following input from the finance team.

Members were unanimous in their support for continuation of the post and, following consideration

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL – That

(1) the post of Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer be approved and funded for a period of two years from April 2019 from contributions from Section 106 [Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)] financial obligations, underwritten by financial support from the Council and Littlehampton Town Council, subject to a supplementary estimate of up to £90,000 to be approved by Full Council to fund the post if the funding is not secured;

(2) a supplementary estimate of up to £90,000 be approved (which equates to a Band D equivalent Council Tax of £1.49) to underwrite the Council's share of the Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer post to 31 March 2021 if funding is not secured;

(3) if funding for continuity of the post is not achieved, then Members accept a critical scaling back of activities and support for this initiative.

(The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm)