

LITTLEHAMPTON REGENERATION SUB-COMMITTEE

2 December at 6.00 pm

Present: - Councillors Bicknell (Chairman), Mrs Ayres, Blampied, Cates, Dendle, Mrs Porter and Dr Walsh.

Councillor Buckland was also in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Dendle was absent from the meeting during consideration of the matter raised in Minute 8 to Minute 12 (part).

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Dingemans and Gammon.

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 interest of clarity for the public, be recorded in the Minutes as a Prejudicial and Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Mrs Ayres declared a personal interest as a member of Littlehampton Town Council.

Councillor Dr Walsh declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5, 9 Big Ideas for Littlehampton, as a member of Littlehampton Town Council and West Sussex County Council.

Councillor Blampied declared a personal interest as a member of the Littlehampton Harbour Board.

10. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2015 were approved as a correct record by the Subcommittee and signed by the Chairman.

11. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman announced a change to the order of the agenda to accommodate the presence of Mr Peter Fisher, who was in attendance to inform Members on the Sussex Business Wardens.

12. SUSSEX BUSINESS WARDENS

The Town Centre Regeneration Officer presented this report which advised the Subcommittee on a new initiative being provided by Sussex Police in partnership with Southern Co-ops. Home Office funding had been received to set up a business warden service being trialled in various locations across West Sussex, with Littlehampton being one of the chosen locations.

Members heard that the success of any town centre was built on reputation and, whilst there had been a lot of positive action in dealing with anti-social behaviour in Littlehampton, that had not resulted in a corresponding dip in crime against businesses

The Business Warden service was being provided by a private sector security company, contracted and managed by the Southern Co-operative Ltd. The Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Fisher to the meeting in his role as General Manager of SWL Security, the organisation contracted to deliver and implement the Business Warden Scheme.

Mr Fisher advised the Subcommittee on the background to the initiative and the source of funding. He was able to report that the pilot scheme had started two months ago in Eastbourne and Littlehampton for a period of two years. The wardens would be working with retailers to gather evidence to submit to the Police and, if an offence was taking place, they could stop and apprehend the offender until the Police were able to attend the scene.

Members then participated in a full question and answer session with Mr Fisher which covered the scope of the scheme; future funding streams; body cameras; the Facewatch Platform; and relationship between the Business Wardens and the Police. In the course of discussion, a request was made as to whether Arun District Council Members could be invited to the meetings with businesses as it was important that they be kept abreast of

what was going on in the town and a response given that that might well be possible. It was also suggested and agreed that an update on the scheme would be provided to Members in about 9 months.

The Chairman extended the Subcommittee's thanks to Mr Fisher for his attendance at the meeting and for an extremely informative presentation on the work of the Business Wardens. He felt that the work that was being done supported a way forward in reducing crime in the town and was to be welcomed.

The Subcommittee noted the report and requested that an update report be provided to Members in 9 months time.

13. PROGRESS OF THE FIRST PHASE OF IMPLEMENTING THE 9 BIG IDEAS FOR LITTLEHAMPTON

*(During the course of discussion on this item, Councillor Dr Walsh declared a personal interest as he was a member of the Littlehampton Harbour Board.)*

In presenting this report, the Economic Regeneration Officer advised that, in addition to the consultation already undertaken (as set out in the report), he had had a meeting with the Littlehampton Traders Partnership on 3 November 2015 and would be meeting with the Littlehampton Civic Society on Friday 4 December 2015. Unfortunately, he was not able to advise on whether the Coastal Revival Fund bid had been successful as the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) had not yet announced the results of the bidding process; however, Members would be advised as soon as notification was received.

Members then participated in some debate on the matter and the Economic Regeneration Officer reiterated that the 9 Big Ideas was just conceptual at the present time and further information would be gathered at the appropriate time to ascertain the views of relevant stakeholders, interested parties and local residents.

The £25,000 which had already been identified through Section 106 monies would be used to produce design plans for the town centre. It was hoped that design plans connecting the town centre to the following 3 areas would be created and funded through the Coastal Revival Grant (if the Council's application was successful) or as and when further funding became available:-

- Improve the Promenade
- Pier Lookout
- New Green and Beach Link

That work would ascertain the feasibility of progressing the schemes but it was stressed that nothing was set in stone at the present time.

*Subject to approval at the next meeting*

The Head of Economic Regeneration reminded Members that the schemes selected had to be deliverable in the context of an extremely difficult financial climate.

In the course of discussion, reference had been made to a letter sent by Littlehampton Town Council in response to the presentation they had received from the Economic Regeneration Officer regarding the 9 Big Ideas and the Chairman requested that a copy of that be circulated to all Members following the meeting. In addition, it was felt that a meeting between the Economic Regeneration Team and the Clerk of Littlehampton Town Council should take place and an update be provided to the next meeting on a way forward.

The Subcommittee noted the progress made with developing the first phase of the 9 Big Ideas for Littlehampton and the proposed next steps and requested officers to take account of its views.

14. COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM

The Town Centre Regeneration Officer presented this report which outlined the detail of how an award of £10,000 from the Coastal Communities fund would be used to set up a Littlehampton Coastal Communities Team.

The Subcommittee welcomed the proposed involvement of additional partners and stakeholders in supporting improvements to the town and then noted the contents of the report.

15. LITTLEHAMPTON REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

The Subcommittee considered the Position Statement and participated in general discussion on a number of items. Particular comment centred around the following:-

- **St Martin's Car Park:** It was asked if there was a timescale for starting work on a development brief. The Head of Economic Regeneration advised that she could not give an answer to that but that it was likely to be at least a year due to the lack of resources within the Planning Department to be able to progress the work. She also advised that officers were not aware at this time of any serious commercial interest in the empty Waitrose site.
- **9 Big Ideas for Littlehampton:** As a number of ideas were already coming forward from various parties, Members felt that the "9 Big Ideas" should be changed to reflect those suggestions and should in future be referred to as "Big Ideas for Littlehampton". More importantly, it was about enhancing the town and interconnecting the town centre to the seafront and riverside to encourage a thriving economy.
- **North Littlehampton Development:** Building had started, which was good news. It was anticipated that delivery of the Lyminster Bypass would be over the next four years. A concern

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was raised that, with the new developments, safety of the residents had to be ensured.

- **Arcade:** It was acknowledged that the Arcade was in need of upgrading and it was hoped that a change in the management would lead to more positive action.
- **Retail Vitality:** Traders and all involved were commended for their efforts at Wick and Littlehampton as there were no empty shops at present.
- **Enterprise Hub – Wick:** The Head of Economic Regeneration advised that an enforcement notice had been issued against Morrisons because they had not completed their planning obligation. Councillor Dr Walsh also advised that there had been a meeting with the Coastal Commissioning Group to express the serious concern that no progress was being made to provide the new medical surgery.
- **Mewsbrook Park:** A question was asked as to who had been consulted over the type of new equipment that would be installed. As this was not within her remit, the Head of Economic Regeneration stated that she would make enquires of the Greenspaces Team and inform Members accordingly, including Councillor Purchase who was the Ward Member (as was Councillor Dr Walsh).

Officers were reminded that a request had been made that the “*Civic Block*” should be added to the Position Statement but that had been omitted. The Head of Economic Regeneration apologised for this error and stated it would be rectified for future meetings.

The Subcommittee noted the report.

(The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm)