

Subject to approval at the next meeting

LITTLEHAMPTON REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

7 February 2018 at 6.00 pm

Present: - Councillors Bicknell (Chairman), Dingemans (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Ayres, Blampied, Cates, Gammon, Dr Walsh and Warren.

Councillor Ambler was also present at the meeting.

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 as there was an overlap of several issues between the three tiers of local government.
- Councillors Mrs Ayres, Gammon and Warren declared a personal interest as members of Littlehampton Town Council.
- Councillor Blampied declared a personal interest as a Member of the Littlehampton Harbour Board.

9. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017 were approved as a correct record by the Sub-Committee and signed by the Chairman.

10. HISTORIC ENGLAND

The Chairman advised Members, under Urgent Matters, that he had just been made aware that Historic England would be delivering two training days on behalf of the Littlehampton Heritage Group and the Subcommittee and relevant Ward Members were being invited to attend these on 15 February and 5 March 2018. The full details would be circulated to Members following the meeting.

11. TOWN CENTRE WORK PROGRAMME

The Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer provided the Subcommittee with a comprehensive update on his work over the past five years, together with details of the town centre work priorities for the coming year.

He was pleased to advise that a number of successful new events had been established and that marketing and promotion activity had been stepped up, as had business support. Positive dialogue was now in place between the Council, Littlehampton Town Council and the Littlehampton Traders

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Partnership and Trader/Police liaison meetings were ongoing to address the anti-social behaviour related to street drinking.

However, it was acknowledged that there were still significant challenges to address and that (1) promotion of Littlehampton town centre needed to continue; (2) work to maintain a good working relationship between the Council and traders to continue; and (3) support of the Littlehampton Traders Partnership be used as the best vehicle to achieve that. It was also highlighted that the contract for the Town Centre Regeneration Officer would be ending at the end of March 2019 and that discussion would be required between the District and Town Councils to ensure that there would be continuity of the service provided after that date.

The Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer was thanked for his update and Members then participated in general discussion on the following matters:-

- Anti Social Behaviour and Street Drinking – concerns that the police only provided a short term improved response when the matter was raised at various meetings and that needed to be maintained permanently. In addition ASB was expanding beyond the town centre and included criminal damage, graffiti, etc.
- A request was made for enquiries to be made as to why Selsey now had a pro-active 6 man PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) team in place when Littlehampton had been promised one in November and it had still not materialised. Pressure must be put on the police to action this matter.
- Business Wardens – concerns were raised that the contract would be expiring in 2019 and where would future funding be coming from as the traders could not be expected to bear the cost as that was beyond their means.
- Could steps be taken to clear unsightly rubbish from alleyways?
- Could the shopping offer be made more family friendly and was there anything that could be done to attract the elderly into the town? A response was given that steps were being taken to try and create conditions that would encourage investment and also attract people into the town.

12. PROMENADE SHELTER PROJECT & LONG BENCH SLAT ENGRAVING SCHEME

The Economic Regeneration Officer gave a verbal presentation on the current status of the project to demolish the Promenade Shelter and replace it with a new build Windsurfing School with changing rooms, café and roof terrace and toilets. The Subcommittee was advised that planning consent had been approved for the development on 13 December 2017 and it would be a massive step forward for the regeneration of Littlehampton seafront.

The Subcommittee welcomed the initiative as it would greatly enhance this part of the promenade and provide members of the public with more choice. Comment was made that it should no longer be referred to as the

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Promenade Shelter Project as matters had moved on and it should have a more positive title.

The Chairman thanked all those that had been involved in the project from its conception, design and planning stages and looked forward to its opening in the future.

The Economic Regeneration Officer then provided an update on the refurbishment of the Long Bench. He was pleased to advise that since Aldingbourne Trust had taken over the management of the scheme, 70 slats had been sold and the coloured slats were currently being recoloured. On the question being put, a response was given that there was scope for the bench to be extended in the future as planning consent had already been approved.

6. LITTLEHAMPTON REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

In receiving and noting the Position Statement, it was acknowledged that a number of the matters contained therein had been covered during the course of consideration of the previous agenda items. Further discussion was undertaken on the following:-

- Littlehampton Enterprise Hub – The Business Development Manager was pleased to give a verbal presentation on this exciting project for the town whereby up to 200 local businesses would be provided with support in this business centre with a difference. It was anticipated that the centre would be opening in July 2018 and that Biz Space would be offering a good overall package for the local business community.
- Littlehampton Town Centre Management – Serious concerns were raised at the closing of the access to the car park at the former Waitrose site, Avon Road. The concrete blocks that had appeared at the entrance were an eye sore and had a detrimental impact on the appearance of the town centre. A request was made that Store Properties and/or the landowner be approached to discuss the matter.

Member comment was made that there was an awareness that various discussions were being undertaken by a number of organisations on proposals for the regeneration of Littlehampton, with particular regard to the provision of medical facilities in the town; proposals to introduce WiFi on the seafront; and One Public Estate and the Gigabit West Sussex project. It was requested that regular updates be provided to the Subcommittee as it was felt important that the relevant information should be shared in a cohesive manner so that all parties were aware of what might be happening, whether this be through the private or public sectors. An officer response was given that courtesy calls would be made to confirm that the relevant bodies would be happy to have that information provided as updates and, if so, the Position Statement would be amended accordingly.

(The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm)