

Subject to approval at the next Subcommittee meeting

BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUBCOMMITTEE

24 September 2018 at 6.00 pm

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

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

9. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2018 were approved by the Subcommittee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10. BOGNOR REGIS TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT AND BID UPDATE

The Senior Regeneration Officer presented this report which provided a final evaluation of the town centre management initiative, together with an update on the recently adopted Business Improvement District (BID). This was accompanied by a slide presentation to highlight the improvements that had been made to the public realm; shopfronts; events to bring people to the town; and the evidence of change. She advised that the slide presentation would be uploaded to the web immediately following the meeting as Appendix B to the report and that it would be found as an additional paper to the agenda already on the web.

The Subcommittee was also advised that, with regard to the ballot as to whether to progress the BID, there had been a high 60% turnout with votes in favour amounting to 80%, which was an unusually high degree of support. This was a positive endorsement of progress to date and the relevance of the BID Business Plan to voting businesses. A lot of hard work had been undertaken by a number of people to achieve such a good outcome and the Senior Regeneration Officer took the opportunity to pay particular tribute to the work of Toyubur Rahman, who had been appointed to the post of Bognor Regis Town Centre Manager in May 2014 and who was the architect behind so many of the improvements highlighted, together with the time and effort he had put in in establishing the BID.

In turning to discussion on the matter, Members voiced their disappointment that the Town Centre Manager's contract had not been

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renewed by the BID Board as they felt that his contribution to the regeneration of Bognor Regis had been invaluable. He had succeeded in making the town vibrant and welcoming with the many events that attracted visitors, and his encouragement in the improvement of shop fronts had greatly enhanced the appearance of the town. They felt he would be sorely missed and the Chairman expressed the thanks of the Subcommittee for his hard work and commitment to Bognor Regis, which had been of huge benefit to the regeneration of the town.

The Regeneration Team, namely the Group Head of Economy and the Senior Regeneration Officer, were also commended for their input and expertise with regard to all the improvements that had been achieved to date.

Members participated in further discussion in respect of the following:-

- Whether people were still being encouraged to live in the town centre above the shops – the Group Head of Economy stated that this was certainly the case due to the proven benefits of increasing the viability of the town centre and the natural surveillance “policing” of anti social behaviour through having more people around during the day and night.
- The Group Head of Economy was attending meetings of the BID Board as the Council was an invited member of the Board – it was felt that the BID had a good future and everything would be done to make it successful.
- Members were extremely pleased that the vacancy rate for the town centre was 6.7% and that for the wider BID area it was 9.3%. When compared to the average national rate of 12% these were extremely satisfying figures and illustrated that Bognor Regis was an attractive prospect for businesses and particularly for independent traders.
- Concerns were raised with regard to the level of anti social behaviour in the town. Although a Community Warden scheme had been introduced by BID, it was felt that that was no substitute for a police presence.
- It was emphasised that all parties involved in the regeneration of the town must work together now and in the future.

The Subcommittee noted the report.

#### 11. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION POSITION STATEMENT

*(During the course of discussion on this matter, Councillor Bower, as Chairman of the Development Control Committee, made a statement for clarification pertaining to proposed planning applications.)*

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

**Enterprise Bognor Regis** – The Group Head of Economy was pleased to advise that Rolls Royce had submitted a new planning

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application for a temporary logistics area which illustrated their commitment to their business in Bognor Regis.

**Gardens by the Sea** – Landscape Designers had been appointed to prepare detailed designs for the new Linear Park in preparation for the planning application to be submitted. There would be further consultation with focus groups regarding the design detail of the park as part of the planning application preparation process. With respect to the Regis site, discussions were ongoing with Whitbread's, the Town Council and Arun Arts.

**Seafront Regeneration** – the new toilets would be installed on the Seafront w/c 1 October 2018, with more details and dates as to when they would be available for public use to follow in a press release.

**Old Town and Pier** – a planning application had come in for the ex-amusement arcade in Waterloo Square for bar/restaurant/shops.

**Placebranding and Promotion** – Feedback on the survey had now been received and the findings would be shared with relevant parties. Some discussion took place on the placebranding initiative and the Group Head of Economy provided clarification on the direction that had been taken and why. The new investment website was also commended at [www.bognorregisregeneration.com](http://www.bognorregisregeneration.com)

(The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.)