

**WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM**

**20 September 2017**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Weir (Chairman) (P)

Ashton

Berry (P)

Burns (P)

Elks

Green (P)

Hiscock (P)

Hutchison

Learney (P)

Mather (P) (for Items 1-6)

Scott (P) (from Item 7)

Tait (P)

Thompson (P)

Tod (P)

Others in attendance who did address the Committee:

Councillor Humby (Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships)

Others in attendance who did not address the Committee:

Councillor Horrill (Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing Services)

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1. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Hiscock and Weir declared a personal interest (but not prejudicial) in respect of Item 7 (Pavilion Project Update) as both had attended fundraising events in relation to the Cricket Pavilion. As there was no vote in respect of this Report, both remained in the room during the discussion of the matter thereon.

2. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that the rota of volunteers for Community Speedwatch was now building up. Discussions were taking place with the Highcliffe Community Forum for Action for volunteers in this area to grow the Speedwatch campaign and to ensure groups were better informed about the programme in the Town Centre. The Chairman advised that she was able to provide an application form and further information on the programme where required.

In response to questions regarding the criteria for existing 20mph speed zones. It was reported that Hampshire County Council (HCC) were in the process of reviewing the zone areas which would be carried out by the end of the year. Furthermore, it was noted that there was a countrywide review of speed limit zones being undertaken which would impact on policies coming forward in the future.

### 3. **MINUTES**

The Chairman raised the following points arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:

- (i) Legal advice on the terms of reference for the Winchester Town Forum (Town Improvement) Informal Group to consider the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) award and what to take forward had been sought. This matter would be further considered at the next meeting of the Forum once a response was received.

It was noted that following a recent meeting of the Winchester Town Forum (Account) Informal Group, a date would be arranged for a briefing session to take place to consider proposals for the neighbourhood fund CIL being brought forward.

- (ii) The Chairman advised that she had been in discussion with the Head of Landscapes and Open Spaces and the Head of Sport and Physical Activity regarding the consideration of North Walls recreation ground, to run parallel with the Pavilion Project, to investigate the need to upgrade the facility. It was noted that those Members previously appointed to the Winchester Town Forum (North Walls) Informal Group would be contacted in due course by the relevant officers to arrange the first meeting of this Group.
- (iii) In relation to the Winchester Town Forum (Local Democracy and Decision Making) Informal Group, it was noted that a meeting of the Group would be arranged in due course to establish governance options in relation to the way forward for the Winchester Town Forum. Subsequent to this, the Chairman advised that consideration would be given to arranging a Special Meeting of the Winchester Town Forum with key stakeholders to consider how to proceed with the options identified.
- (iv) On behalf of the Chairman of the Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group, Councillor Tait made reference to the outstanding work taking place at Clausentum Fen, who had received a £500 contribution from the Town Forum Small Grants Scheme for the revitalisation of the area.

In conclusion, it was noted that the small grants process was now open for the coming year and details were available on the Council's

website. Community Groups were encouraged to submit their applications accordingly.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 21 June 2017, be approved and adopted.

#### 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mike Slinn (representative of Winchester Walking Strategy Group) and Christine Holloway addressed the Forum in respect of the Item 6 (City of Winchester Movement Strategy September 2017) and Mike Caldwell (representative of the Pavilion Project Team) addressed the Forum in respect of Item 7 (Pavilion Project Update). A summary of their representations are outlined under the relevant item below.

#### 5. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018/19** (Report WTF254 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the Report which provided an update of the current financial position of the Winchester Town Account and the financial projections over the medium and long term. The projections contained in the Report had been extended to illustrate the long term financial position. The Corporate Director (Service Delivery) drew Members' attention to the projections, as set out in Appendix A of the Report, and reported that, although the closing reserve fell below the 10% target, the Finance Team were satisfied that this was not of any great concern and that this matter had been reviewed by the Town Forum (Account) Informal Group.

During discussion, Members made reference to a number of points which were responded to, as summarised below:

- (i) Revenue funds from the Market to be investigated as future scope of the Town Forum. The Corporate Director (Service Delivery) reminded the Forum that the Market was operational for all users and not for the sole use of Town residents. However, it was concluded that this matter be explored further in due course.
- (ii) It was noted that there may be some multiple costs being made to cover funding for Community Wardens, particularly from those residing in Council housing in the Town Area, where payments were made for this provision via the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Town Precept and the General Fund. Residents living in private housing in other parts of the District only made one form of payment towards this service. It was agreed that this matter be reviewed from time to time and investigated by the Town Forum (Account) Informal Group.

- (iii) Reference was made to the recent discussions that had recently taken place at HCC following cuts to Government funding which would see services in certain areas reduced/suspended in the future (i.e. school crossing patrols, bus subsidies). It was recognised that alternative models would need to be formed when looking at budgets for the next year and that, in order to protect services, there would need to be discussion with Parish Council's going forward. In addition, it was noted that options would also need to be investigated for unparished areas for the future provision of these services. The Forum asked that HCC continue to work closely with the Council where there were critical services it wished to protect.
- (iv) In relation to Community Speedwatch, it was considered that the volume of traffic and speed awareness in and out of the Town Centre needed attention, with the use of reminder signage in conjunction with the Speedwatch initiative, to achieve a plan of how funds are best used to improve safety on the roads in 'hotspot' areas.

**RESOLVED:**

That the financial projections, set out Appendix A to the Report, be noted and the budget timetable and financial strategy for 2018/19, be agreed.

**6. CITY OF WINCHESTER MOVEMENT STRATEGY SEPTEMBER 2017**  
(Briefing Paper refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the briefing paper which provided an update on the City of Winchester Movement Strategy. The Corporate Director (Service Delivery) outlined the initial public engagement process with members of the public and all interested groups to ensure early engagement with an evidence led strategy to acquire options and views to feed into a high level solution to develop the Strategy ahead of a full public consultation in 2018. It was hoped that with an open engagement process, all interested parties would have the opportunity to contribute.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Frank Baxter and Sam Clark of HCC Strategic Transport Team who addressed the Forum on the latest position regarding the Movement Strategy and answered Members' questions thereon.

Mr Baxter outlined the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) aspiration for growth and development of Winchester city and the Transport Strategy will underpin this initiative and he made reference to data collection and the engagement approach outlined in the HCC Cabinet report of 19 September 2017, which included details of the robust consultation (resident's phone' survey and workshops with stakeholders as well as an open consultation) . He emphasised that a robust approach to developing the strategy was required based on evidence.

Councillor Humby addressed the Forum to clarify that partnership working between the Council and HCC would be on-going. The Forum noted that the Movement Strategy would be a significant piece of work with possible measures requiring high levels of investment over many years.. It was noted that the process of evidence gathering had been in place since the start of the year and was on-going. Councillor Humby explained that actions around the project are being managed with regular board meetings with HCC/WCC key members and officers to ensure that full engagement and consultation will take place which will help to continually raise awareness of the work being undertaken. The project will take account of 'the bigger picture'.

Mike Slinn and Chris Holloway addressed the Forum during the consideration of this briefing paper. A summary of their representations are outlined below.

In summary, Mr Slinn welcomed the City of Winchester Movement Strategy and hoped that this would address the concerns of the past in relation to the lack of consultation. He made reference to the success of the Central Winchester Regeneration study exercise which he believed should be highlighted as a positive process and asked the Forum to ensure that the Council worked closely with HCC to ensure openness and participatory consultation and adequate data collection going forward.

In summary, Ms Holloway stated that, although she had recently retired from WinACC she continued to participate in their activities and was also closely aligned with the Winchester Walking Strategy. She welcomed the paper that had been prepared and raised particular points in relation to the Council's providing clear leadership and considered that initial consultation before modelling and proposals to be a positive approach. However, she considered it essential that the aims and objectives be set to ensure that there was an awareness of what needed to be achieved from the Movement Strategy and it was down to the Councils to lead on this.. She also suggested that the Forum should actively participate in the project.

In response to the points raised during public participation, the Assistant Director (Environment) outlined that this process would be carried out during public engagement to shape how the Movement Strategy moved forward. A paper would be prepared to indicate what the key objectives might be coming forward which would form the framework during the consultation process for analysis.

During debate, the Forum welcomed the briefing paper and the progress being made regarding the Movement Strategy to date and acknowledged the importance of their role in the development of the Strategy. In conclusion, the Forum considered that once the results of the consultation were available, a further progress update be made available to a future meeting of the Town Forum.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the briefing paper and comments expressed during public participation, be received and noted.

7. **PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE**  
(Report WTF255 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the report which detailed an update on the project, subsequent to previous oral reports provided to the Forum. The Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) introduced the report which sought feedback from Members on the preferred way forward. Reference was made to two amendments in the report at recommendation 1 to read ‘...paragraph 10.10 of the Report’ and not 10.8 and to 7.1 to read ‘...three dilapidated buildings’ and not two, as stated within the Report.

Mike Caldwell addressed the Forum during the consideration of this item. A summary of his representation is outlined below.

Mr Caldwell stated that, over the past few months, a grant from Sport England’s community asset fund had been secured. Documents had been drafted in preparation for a planning application which would open up opportunities to apply for additional funding. It was noted that a meeting had taken place over the last week with involvement of AR Design, Facilities Management and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), which included discussion on the provision of facility with a broader community use and an update on construction costs.

In response to questions from Members regarding the funding gap for the project, it was reported that further funding streams had been identified. However, a change to the group’s charitable status was required in order to qualify and this was in hand, with the expectation of attaining it by October 2017. Charitable status and planning permission were now considered essential to the success of any future grant applications.

During debate, the Forum expressed support and enthusiasm for the project and agreed to allow a further 12 months for funds to be sought. A large-scale community fundraising event was suggested as a possible idea to generate additional income for the project as the facility would be of significant benefit to the community and District.

In conclusion, Members noted that the Pavilion Project would be considered as part of the Town Forum (North Walls) Informal Group going forward, in continued dialogue with the Pavilion Project Team.

## RESOLVED:

1. That paragraph 10.10 (b) of the Report, be supported, subject to an amendment that a period of up to 12 months be given for project completion, with a review of progress at six months;
2. That, as outlined in recommendation 2 to the Report, the total capital budget currently set at £300,000, be noted; and
3. That the second option (i.e. the AR Design scheme), and the necessary funding identified for the delivery of the scheme, be supported and in order to deliver the project effectively, the following steps be approved:
  - i) Delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director (Estates and Regeneration) to ensure that the design is modified as necessary, so as to meet Council standards for ongoing repair and maintenance requirements; and
  - ii) A Direction under Contracts Procedure Rule 2.4(a) be made in relation to the employment of AR Design Studio as project architects.

8. **ENHANCING ST MAURICE'S COVERT – UPDATE**  
(Report CAB2958 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the Report which provided an update on the ongoing enhancement project for St Maurice's Covert. This was also considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 September 2017, in conjunction with the Trade Waste Initiative (Report CAB2971 below refers), as part of the Council's commitment to enhancing the vibrancy and presentation of Winchester's central shopping streets.

The Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) made reference to the report previously considered by the Forum and Cabinet almost a year ago whereby Members confirmed their support for the enhancement of the Covert. Subsequently, a list of priority actions had been identified, as set out in paragraph 11.5 to the Report

In response, the Forum wholeheartedly supported the positive progress that had taken place with the enhancement of St Maurice's and welcomed the Report.

## RESOLVED:

That the Report be received and noted.

9. **TRADE WASTE INITIATIVE**  
(Report CAB2971 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the Report which set out a number of measures to improve the presentation of the commercial centre of Winchester in response to concerns raised by Members at that time about poor maintenance of commercial properties, pigeon nuisance and empty shops.

In respect of greater control to trade waste management, it was noted that assistance would be provided and enforcement action taken if businesses wilfully refused to co-operate and did not attempt to improve the Town Centre environment.

Reference was made to an amendment in the report to Cabinet recommendation 1 to read ‘...paragraph 10.7 – 10.9 of the Report’ and not 10.10 – 10.12, as stated within the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be received and noted, subject to the following inclusion:

‘In the event that businesses do not cooperate with the Council in the removal of problem bins, enforcement action would be taken to the extent of the Council’s powers’.

10. **FUNDING FOR THE HANDLEBAR CAFE**  
(Report CAB2930 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the Report which provided a summary of recent progress of the Handlebar Café which was also considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 September 2017, whereby approval was given for an amendment to the match funding requirements and the duration for which the grant was to be made available (ie one year).

The Forum confirmed their support for the project and noted the amendments to the Council’s match funding requirements. This included the removal of the offer of match funding from the South Downs National Park Authority and the requirement for SPUD to secure the full project costs in order for the Council to release its total contribution of £75,000.

The Forum were keen to see the project progressed and recognised the time given by commercial businesses to the project ‘pro bono’ and the extra time it could take SPUD to secure the necessary funds to progress the project to completion



RESOLVED:

1. That the sum of £25,000 allocated in the Winchester Town Account budget for 2017/18 be reconfirmed as a grant towards the construction and delivery costs of The Handlebar Cafe, subject to match funding of £50,000 from the General Fund reconfirmed by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 September 2017; and.

2. That the broad approach of SPUD's mitigation strategy set out at section 9 of the Report, be endorsed.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.50pm

Chairman