

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

27 June 2016

Attendance:

Councillors:

Weir (Chairman) (P)

Ashton (P)
Berry (P)
Burns
Elks (P)
Green (P)
Hiscock (P)
Hutchison

Learney (P)
Mather (P)
Scott
Tait (P)
Thompson (P)
Tod (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Godfrey (Leader)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Weston (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Built Environment)

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Weir be elected Chairman and Councillor Green be elected Vice-Chairman for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

2. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed recently elected Members, Councillors Ashton, Elks and Learney to the Forum for its first meeting of the new Municipal Year and stated that the Forum would continue to work across party in a non-political manner for the greater good of the residents of the Town Area.

3. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED:

That the meetings of the Forum commence at 6.30pm in accordance with the published timetable of meetings for 2016/17, as set out on the agenda.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 9 March 2016, be approved and adopted.

5. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Mather and Tod declared disclosable pecuniary interests due to their roles as Hampshire County Councillors. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

Councillor Weir declared a personal (but non prejudicial) interest in respect of Item 7 below, as a trustee of WinACC.

Councillor Learney declared a personal (but non prejudicial) interest in respect various items below, due to her role as a Littleton and Harestock Parish Councillor.

6. **MR DAVID JONES**

The Forum wished to send its sincere condolences to the family of David Jones, Leader of Winchester Litter Pickers, who had recently passed away. It was noted that Mr Jones had made a significant contribution in the Town area and had also been in recent dialogue with the Chairman in relation to the Winchester Bus Users Group. The Forum agreed to consider this matter at a later date and encouraged Mr Jones' ideas to be taken forward, in recognition of his contribution.

7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

During public participation, Tim Jackson (Principal of Sparsholt College), Christine Holloway (WinACC), Emma Back (SALT) and Geoff Wright (St Giles Hill Residents Association) addressed the Forum on various matters not set out on the agenda. A summary of their comments are outlined below:

Tim Jackson addressed the Forum in relation to the ambitions of Sparsholt College for a Renewable/Sustainability Demonstration Centre facility for which a revised planning application would be submitted in due course. Mr Jackson advised that the Centre would fully support the Council's adopted Low Carbon Strategy and, through its sustainable practices, would reduce carbon and costs for businesses and also provide skills training and create local jobs unique to the UK. In conclusion, Mr Jackson stated that the Centre would greatly contribute towards putting Winchester on the map of carbon activity to reduce carbon output to the area.

In response to questions, Mr Jackson advised that, dependant on the outcome of the forthcoming planning application, the College would be in a position to invite Members to visit the site in the next 12 months.

Christine Holloway addressed the Forum in relation to the 'Winchester: Thinking Ahead – everything's connected' conference that was taking place on 21 July 2016. The conference had been arranged by several organisations including WinACC, Winchester BID, City of Winchester Trust and the University of Winchester in order to seek views and opinions on the future development of Winchester Town Centre in a collective approach, as a result of the failure of Silver Hill proposals. She advised that, although Councillor Godfrey had agreed to open the event, the City Council were not a joint host on this occasion but were welcome to attend.

In conclusion, it was noted that attendance at the conference would be via invitation only and that requests to attend could be made via WinACC. Contributions towards the event had been made by a number of organisations including WinACC, BID, City of Winchester Trust and Hampshire County Council and that, any contribution the Forum may wish to make would be greatly appreciated. In response, the Chairman agreed to take this matter forward.

Emma Back and Geoff Wright addressed the Forum regarding the protection and enhancement of open space in the Town area. Both made reference to the well-used open spaces outside the settlement boundary, particularly King George V playing field and the Garrison Ground, currently leased to the Council by Tesco until 2022.

Concerns were raised at the loss of open space in these areas of Bar End which residents were keen to see enhanced. The Forum were asked to investigate again their preference of Option 4 over Option 5 with the exact location of the proposed Leisure Centre to be established in order to protect the sports grounds from development, prior to design works taking place. In conclusion, they stated that giving up protected land which was a heavily used facility for Highcliffe was not in the best interests of local residents.

In conclusion, it was noted that a visit for Members to view the Bar End area would be arranged by local residents in due course. In response, it was noted that a report in relation to the Leisure Centre design towards the plan would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 6 July 2016.

8. **WINNALL PLANNING FRAMEWORK** (Oral Report)

The Corporate Director (Service Delivery) provided a verbal update on behalf of the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) to the Forum which outlined that Planning Frameworks provide route maps for policy, investment and infrastructure decisions by the Council and its key stakeholders in specific neighbourhoods.

The Forum noted that these were a mechanism for delivering elements of the 'Vision for Winchester' which incorporated long term action plans that would help to realise the aspirations of residents and businesses alike.

As a result of the success of the Stanmore and Abbots Barton Planning Frameworks in recent years, the Council had commissioned consultants to develop one for Winnall in 2015. The vision and objectives were adopted via Portfolio Holder Decision Notice last autumn, and actions for the City Council were approved by Cabinet in March this year.

It was noted that a new planning policy had been incorporated into Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2), drawing on the evidence of the Winnall Planning Framework and seeking to nurture the neighbourhood's role as an important business centre for the District, which sets out zones for different types of business development, from start-up onwards.

The Forum was advised that a Business Forum had been established to bring businesses together to tackle challenges such as broadband deficiencies. Steve Brine MP would be attending the July meeting for a question and answer session.

At the end of March an expression of interest to the M3 Local Economic Partnership (LEP) Growth Fund had been submitted to seek capital funds to support some of the more costly actions in the Framework. The results of which were due to be announced alongside the Autumn Budget Statement.

Meetings have been taking place with Hampshire Highways, Hampshire and the IoW Wildlife Trust and Tesco to discuss taking forward key actions. Hampshire Highways had already indicated that they would incorporate all the relevant transport actions into the first draft of their new district 'statement', in view of the fact that the Framework had been subject to public consultation and the actions were well supported.

Officers and Members were in liaison with Youth Options around the future of the KAYAC building.

In conclusion, it was noted that a full briefing on the Winnall Planning Framework would be given to Senior Managers' Team on 10 June 2016, with a request that they look for opportunities to enable their teams to help deliver the actions.

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress made on the Winnall Planning Framework, be noted; and
2. That a report outlining the Framework be considered at the next meeting of the Forum and added onto the Work Programme accordingly.

9. **ST MAURICE'S COVERT ENHANCEMENT SCHEME UPDATE**
(Oral Report)

The Corporate Director (Service Delivery) provided a verbal update on behalf of the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) to the Forum which outlined that the project, conceived and led by Winchester Town Forum, was the subject of an Informal Member Group comprising Cllrs Hutchison, Tod and Mather over the past Municipal Year. The Group then agreed to include representatives of Winchester Business Improvement District (BID). The Mercure Wessex Hotel, Debenhams, Greggs and the Church Commissioners. The aim of the project was to improve the presentation and use of St Maurice's Covert and the surrounding area.

It was noted that a detailed specification had been agreed by the Group at the start of this year, and advertised on two procurement portals. Following a competitive selection process, public realm practice ScottWhitbyStudio from London were awarded the contract. A copy of their written submission had been circulated to Members of Town Forum prior to the meeting.

The inception meeting took place two weeks ago, and a programme of engagement and consultation was underway to ensure a wide variety of viewpoints and voices were heard. This would include a 'drop in' day when colleagues and stakeholders could meet ScottWhitby representatives as part of the information-gathering process. The consultants would create a 3D model of the Covert, and would use new technologies such as 360 imaging and 3D printing as part of an innovative engagement process.

In conclusion it was noted that Project dates were currently being finalised, with a view to returning to Town Forum at its meeting on 21 September 2016 with a presentation by ScottWhitby of the emerging designs for the Covert area.

Town Forum had allocated £10,000 for the design scheme commission, and had a further £30,000 identified in the Town Account for delivery of the scheme. The Group hoped that this budget would increase with commercial and other contributions, but the design would be phased to enable delivery in tranches according to the availability of funding.

In response, it was noted that due to his role initiating the project and deputising on the Selection Panel that appointed ScottWhitby, Councillor Tait would be appointed as an additional Member onto the Group for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress made on the St Maurice's Covert Enhancement Scheme, be noted;

2. That Councillor Tait be appointed as an additional Member onto the Winchester Town Forum (St Maurice's Covert) Informal Group for 2016/17; and

3. That a report and presentation by ScottWhitby outlining the emerging designs for the Covert area be considered at the next meeting of the Forum and added onto the Work Programme accordingly.

10. **PROPOSED CENTRAL WINCHESTER SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)**

(Oral Report)

Councillor Godfrey addressed the Forum to advise that at the meeting of Cabinet held 29 March 2016, a task and finish Informal Policy Group (IPG) was established to consider making recommendations to Council for regeneration of Central Winchester and the changes that will follow from Silver Hill. The IPG (comprising of Councillors Gottlieb, Ashton, Burns, Read, Elks, Hutchison and Izard) had been appointed to look at commercial viability and consider what development would be deemed appropriate for the area.

Councillor Godfrey stated that the views and opinions of the Forum were sought to recommend to Cabinet which matters should be considered (ie, archaeology, traffic, transport etc) to produce the draft SPD to Cabinet for implementation next year.

In response to questions regarding the inclusion of The Broadway within the map of the area and traffic and transport issues in this location, Councillor Godfrey stated that he would ensure that the consequential changes in The Broadway and the lower High Street area were included in the SPD. In the absence of an integrated Transport Policy, the inclusion of this area would be a matter for Hampshire County Council (HCC). It was noted that following meetings with officers, HCC were proceeding with an updated access plan, to go some way to meeting a comprehensive travel plan with the City Council commissioning its own specific transport travel review in the near future.

Councillor Godfrey stated that the SPD would initially take the form of a vision, rather than a masterplan, which could be produced at a later date.

In response to questions, Councillor Godfrey stated that the process would include the set up of an engagement approach and strategy whilst allowing the freedom to set its own approach with the aim that the SPD be adopted within the next year.

The Forum noted that the minutes of the IPG would be reviewed at Cabinet in order for recommendations to be picked up. This would be the opportunity for public participation to Cabinet if there were any particular concerns arising from these minutes.

RESOLVED:-

That the update received on the process to be followed for the proposed Central Winchester SPD be noted.

11. **NORTH WINCHESTER FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**
(Oral Report)

The Forum received an update on the North Winchester Flood Alleviation Scheme and noted that this had been developed through partnership working for properties that were liable to flooding in the North Winchester area. The Assistant Director (Policy and Planning) reported that the scheme was currently out to tender and a business case submitted to Government to secure funding, if approved works would commence in August 2016. It was noted that all stakeholders had been notified of the design proposals.

In response to questions, it was noted that HCC would be installing sumps to allow pumping of ground water at St Bedes Primary School and that the scheme would have highway drainage as well as flood alleviation benefits. .

Officers were currently working with Southern Water to address sewerage issues in other areas.

The Assistant Director reported that officers would liaise with residents in the area of the flood alleviation scheme works and that the Environment Agency were leading on the business case submission to Government for funding.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the North Winchester Flood Alleviation Scheme be noted.

12. **WINCHESTER EVENING BUS SERVICES UPDATE**
(Report WTF241 refers)

The Assistant Director (Environment) introduced the Report and outlined that at its last meeting held 9 March 2016, the Forum had resolved, in principle, to fund the Winchester Evening Bus Service beyond September 2016, when the current contract expires. Hampshire County Council (HCC) had tendered the service with a slightly revised timetable, as set out in the Report and had received tenders from three operators. Stagecoach (the existing operator) had submitted the lowest bid which was in line with the budget in the Town Account set for 2016/17.

It was noted that Littleton and Harestock Parish Council had been invited to make a contribution towards the cost for the provision of the service as it was

of benefits to its local residents. However, to date this had not been forthcoming. The Chairman and Ward Members agreed to contact the Parish Council regarding this matter and feedback to the next meeting of the Forum.

RESOLVED:

That the funding for the continuation of the night bus service for a further period of two years (with the option of extending the contract for a further period of 12 months) commencing September 2016 (subject to HCC's Executive Member for Environment and Transport's agreement), be approved.

.13. **MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**
(Report WTF242 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the Report which set out an amendment to the Constitution to reflect necessary changes to the Town Forum's terms of reference, as a result of the ward boundary changes, following last year's Local Government Boundary Commission Review. This change reflected the reduction to the number of Town Wards from six to five. In addition, it was noted that Littleton and Harestock Parish (which was within two City Council wards, St Barnabas, and Wonston and Micheldever) had been split into two separate Parish wards, Littleton, and Harestock.

The Forum noted the changes proposed to the terms of reference, highlighted in Appendix 1 of the Report. In addition, Members considered that appropriate wording be placed within point (e (h)) to refer to any other funds specifically allocated to the programme of schemes within the Town Wards, with particular reference to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and delegated the exact wording to officers for inclusion.

RECOMMENDED:

THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 1 TO THE REPORT, SUBJECT TO THE ADDITIONAL WORDING TO BE CONTAINED WITHIN (E (H)) DELEGATED TO OFFICERS FOR INCLUSION AS STATED ABOVE, FOR APPROVAL.

14. **WORK PROGRAMME AND APPOINTMENTS – 2016/17**
(Report WTF240 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the report which set out the draft work programme for the Forum for the new Municipal Year 2016/17 and asked Members to consider its appointments to the Informal Groups established during the previous Municipal Year. The report outlined the previous membership and terms of reference of these Groups.

The Forum made reference to the formation of two new Informal Groups for 2016/17. Firstly, a Local Democracy and Decision Making Informal Group to look at greater democracy in the area as a result of devolution going forward and secondly to the formation of a Town Improvement Informal Group, whereby the brief for this Group would be discussed at its first meeting.

Members suggested possible subjects for future meetings to consider (set out in no particular order):

- Feedback on the Community Speedwatch Programme;
- St Maurice's Covert design commission – Presentation by ScottWhitbyStudio on emerging designs (as stated in Item 9 above); and
- Winnall Planning Framework Update (as stated in Item 8 above)

The Report also requested that Members re-appoint various informal groups of the Forum and these were agreed as set out below, together with appointments to the newly established Local Democracy and Decision Making Informal Group and Town Improvement Informal Group, as suggested above.

RESOLVED:

1. That the detailed work programme for the Forum for the 2016/17 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix 2 to the Report, be agreed, having regard to the discussion outlined above; and
2. That the following Informal Groups be appointed for 2016/17 with membership as outlined below:
 - (i) Winchester Town Forum (Account Informal) Group:
Councillors: Weir (Chairman), Berry, Thompson and Learney
 - (ii) Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group:
Councillors Scott (Chairman) Berry, Elks and Tait.
 - (iii) Winchester Town Forum (Vision for Winchester) Informal Group:
- As this Group had not met during 2015/16, the Forum agreed review the need to re-appoint this Group at a later date.
 - (iv) Winchester Town Forum (St Maurice's Covert) Informal Group:
Councillors Hutchison, Mather, Tait and Tod

- (v) Walking Strategy Group: Councillor Hiscock.
- (vi) Winchester Town Forum (Play Areas) Informal Group:
Councillors Berry, Elks, Hiscock and Scott;
- (vii) Winchester Town Forum (Local Democracy and Decision Making) Informal Group:
Councillors Thompson (Chairman), Mather, Tod and Weir
- (viii) Winchester Town Forum (Town Improvement) Informal Group:
Councillors Burns, Hutchison (TBC), Learney, Scott and Tait

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.50pm

Chairman