

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

8 March 2017

Attendance:

Councillors:

Weir (Chairman) (P)

Ashton (P)

Berry (P)

Burns (P)

Elks (P)

Green(P)

Hiscock (P)

Hutchison (P)

Learney (P)

Mather (P)

Scott (P)

Tait (P)

Thompson (P)

Tod (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Humby (Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships) and Weston (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Built Environment).

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Achwal, Gemmell, Huxstep and Izard.

1. **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.

2. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

(i) Chesil Theatre Grant

Following the consideration of the Winchester Town Account Budget 2017/18 report at the previous meeting, the Chairman announced that she had received useful feedback from the Chesil Theatre. This was with regard to their plans which were moving forward but had resulted in working with the neighbouring landholder in 'rethinking' development plans. This was proving a complicated and complex issue. It was also noted that St John Winchester Charity were working with The

Winchester Dramatic Society as closely as possible, providing advice and guidance where required.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 25 January 2017, be approved and adopted subject to an amendment to Item 9 (Proposed Grant Allocations for 2017/18) to note that Councillor Elks was a trustee of Streetreach and not The Carroll Centre as stated.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Christine Holloway (Director of Strategy and Policy, WinACC) addressed the Forum in respect of the Vision for a Sustainable Winchester and Geoff Wright (St Giles Hill Residents' Association) addressed the Forum in respect of St Giles Hill and various matters not specifically related to agenda items. A summary of their representations are outlined below.

Christine Holloway stated that the targets had been assessed for Winchester in order to achieve a reduction in carbon footprint by 40% by 2020 and the need to obtain 15% of energy from renewable sources. WinACC recognised that to achieve the reductions required, people would need the information and infrastructure in place to make the decision to change behaviours. Reference was made to the Town Forum Vision which was due to be refreshed in 2017 and suggestion was made that the focus be limited to a few specific key issues going forward rather than an overall view, to link in with the Council's vision for a Lower Carbon Council.

In conclusion, the Forum's attention was drawn to the WinACC's campaign launch 'Breathe for Better Energy' with the aim of all working together to focus on targets to create a safer future for the District.

In response, the Chairman stated that she would take these comments forward and reported that she would be attending an event on renewables and low carbon energy next week. Views and opinions would be sought and the successful outcomes of others would be established.

Geoff Wright raised some questions in relation to the plans for the Leisure Centre, with particular reference to the Masterplan Programme prepared by Mace. This had indicated a period of four weeks between appointment of Architect and the 'Layout Freeze' which includes Cabinet fixing the location within the Bar End area.

Mr Wright was of the opinion that in the 4 weeks following the appointment, little work would be accomplished by the appointed company and the timeframe for the Urban Development Framework (UDF), especially as the involvement of the public and stakeholders would be longer than the four

weeks. He suggested that this would mean that the decision on location was to be made without the benefit of any outcome from the UDF.

In response to Mr Wright's questions, the Corporate Director (Service Delivery) stated that the UDF would not determine the location of the Leisure Centre since this would be guided by the technical requirements for locating a large and complex building, with the Garrison Ground the preferred location. However, the virtue of the UDF was how it would look at the Bar End area and make connections with the new Leisure Centre and the surrounding land uses. The UDF was a valuable tool which would inform the planning process for the whole area, together with the views of residents and community groups etc.

In addition, the Corporate Director (Service Delivery) reported that, initially it had not been possible to consider the Garrison Ground as an option for the provision for the new Leisure Centre. However, following lengthy negotiations with Tesco, the Council had managed to secure ownership of the site which had made the use of the Garrison Ground available as an option for further consideration. Members' questions were answered thereon and Councillor Ashton addressed concerns raised by a few Members in relation to the work carried out by the Bar End Forum to date and the Brief for the area.

RESOLVED:

That the comments expressed by during public participation be noted.

5. **UPDATE ON THE ENGAGEMENT FOR THE CENTRAL WINCHESTER REGENERATION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT COMMISSION**
(Oral Report)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Weston introduced Charles Champion of JTP (Architects and Masterplanners) and the Forum received a presentation regarding the Central Winchester Regeneration Community Planning Weekend due to take place on 24 and 25 March 2017, organised by JTP, on behalf of the Council.

It was reported that work towards the Community Planning Weekend was in progress with the launch event held lunchtime on Friday 10 February being well attended. Since the launch event, information had been gathered by the consultation team with feedback provided to groups at the Central Winchester Regeneration Informal Policy Group (CWRIPG).

Roadshow events to raise awareness had commenced at Winchester Sunday Market on 5 March 2017 between 9:00am and 12:00pm; and would continue at Alresford Market on 9 March and also Winchester Station on the same day.

A further visit would take place to Winchester Station on Thursday 10 March as well as Bishops Waltham. Over this time period the JPT teams would also be meeting with key stakeholders etc

Prior to the Community Planning Weekend, a pre-planning meeting would be held on Friday 23 March at the Cathedral to explain what would be happening and to gain understanding.

The Community Planning Weekend would comprise of workshops and walkabouts to understand the concept, to look at topic areas and to have 'hands on' planning and consideration of the relationship with the wider area. On Saturday there would be a similar process with lunchtime presentations on retail and leisure. Nick Taylor, Scarborough Borough Council's Town Centre Manager, who had extensive experience of working with communities, would be present.

The event would be interactive and would also include workshops for young people (in conjunction with local schools/youth groups) to fully engage with a broad range of age groups. This was essential in order to create a viable scheme that would work, and meet aspirations of a mix of uses with phasing over time.

The outcomes of the Community Planning Weekend would be reported to the CWRIPG on 4 April 2017, with a view to having the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) prepared by June 2017.

In response to further discussion, Mr Campion reported that although the Community Planning Weekend was programmed to target the broadest input, there would be 'hard to reach' groups that would inevitably be missed and this would need to be explored further.

It was noted that, wherever possible, Ward Members would 'spread the word' and engage with the community regarding the forthcoming events and the proposals for this development. The Forum were informed that JTP had a dedicated website at: www.centralwinchesterregen.co.uk and that there were links from the City Council's website to the JTP website where information would be kept up to date. Alternatively, if there were any questions or queries from the community or Members, JTP could be contacted directly via the website where all the necessary details were available.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

6. **HIGHCLIFFE COMMUNITY PLAN**
(Oral Report)

The Forum received an update from Sam Cairns on behalf of Highcliffe Community Forum for Action (HCFfA) which set out the process that had been

followed to establish the Highcliffe Community Plan, the mechanisms used to engage with the community and the outcomes of the regular HCFfA Steering Group meetings held to address concerns and to ensure that key aspects of the plan were progressed.

The Community Plan was split into four key areas:

- Community Safety;
- Travel and Transport;
- Local Living Environment; and
- Community Amenities.

In response to Members questions, Ms Cairn highlighted that the Plan was not a formal written Strategy, but was a guide for the community to step up and get involved by improving the area in which they live. Working Groups were structured to look at their own areas and it was up to the community to own and take these areas forward.

The Forum congratulated Ms Cairn and all participating residents of Highcliffe for their achievements to date and made reference to the neighbourhood element of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This could provide financial assistance to support local communities, where CIL requirements were met. Members urged the HCFfA to consult with local Ward Members for further information and submit proposals to the Council for consideration.

In conclusion, the Forum were advised that copies of the Highcliffe Community Plan and further information regarding the Highcliffe Forum were available via the website <https://highcliffeforum.wordpress.com/>

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

7. **FEEDBACK FROM MEMBER BRIEFING – CITY CENTRE WASTE MANAGEMENT**

(Oral Report)

The Forum received an update by the Head of Environment providing feedback following the recent Members Briefing regarding City Centre Waste Management. The main issue discussed at the briefing was the storage of bins on the highway although other aspects such as Anti Social Behaviour including litter, fly tipping and graffiti removal were also briefly discussed. .

The briefing also included a presentation from the Commercial Manager at Westminster City Council regarding their waste management practices in order to reduce the highway bin problem.

Following the briefing officers will be meeting to discuss waste management options to control these areas including discussions with the County Council regarding enforcement. The aim was to shape a suitable package for Winchester in discussion with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, which would be considered by Cabinet in due course.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Humby addressed the Forum, speaking in his capacity as County Councillor, and stated that a consistent approach needed to be adopted for enforcement not only in Winchester but potentially across the County which he would discuss with officers at the County Council accordingly.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted and the proposals be endorsed.

8. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**
(Oral Update)

The Forum were informed that following press coverage, two co-ordinators (one in Hyde and one in Weeke) had signed up to Community Speedwatch. The Chairman reminded Members that that if specific areas wished to be covered by Community Speedwatch, volunteers would be required to come forward and training would be required.

Hampshire Constabulary could be approached to risk assess the roads in the area where Community Speedwatch was to be established and it was hoped that by Easter the programme would be running with action days on Community Speedwatch in place.

RESOLVED

That the Community Speedwatch Update be noted

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8:30pm

Chairman