

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

28 March 2018

Attendance:

Councillors:

Weir (Chairman) (P)

Ashton (P)

Berry

Burns (P)

Elks (P)

Green (P)

Hiscock (P)

Hutchison (P)

Learney (P)

Mather (P)

Scott (P)

Tait (P)

Thompson (P)

Tod (P)

Other Members in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Humby (Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships)

Other Members in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Gottlieb

1. **COUNCILLOR EILEEN BERRY**

On behalf of the Forum, the Chairman conveyed her best wishes to Councillor Berry for a speedy recovery following her recent operation and illness.

2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Ashton made a personal statement in respect of Item 6 below (Progress on the Vision for the Theatre Royal) stating that his wife was no longer in the position as Chairman of the Winchester Theatre Trust.

Councillor Learney declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of Item 9 below (Winchester Night Bus Service Update) due to her role as Littleton and Harestock Parish Councillor.

3. **MINUTES**

Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting, the Strategic Director: Services confirmed that, following restructuring changes, the Corporate Head of Regulatory would be leading on the St Maurice's Covert project going forward.

Discussions were ongoing with the Project Manager to draw up an updated set of proposals for the implementation of improvement works to St Maurice's Covert which would be brought forward to the Forum for consideration. It was noted that a previous set of improvement works had been considered by the Forum and the Steering Group.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24 January 2018 be approved and adopted.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

5. **WINNALL PLANNING FRAMEWORK UPDATE**

(Report WTF260 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the report which outlined the progress made against the action plan in the Winnall Planning Framework. The Framework document produced by consultants Parsons Brinckerhoff in 2015 developed actions around three broad headings: Working, Living and Travelling in Winnall.

The Forum noted that the framework had been drafted in consultation with businesses and the Movement Strategy to ensure that businesses could remain in Winnall long term. The business community would continue to play an integral role in the consultation process going forward.

Members welcomed the joined up approach taken and raised a number of questions which were answered accordingly, as set out below:

- The Head of Economy and Arts reported on the changes to business set up and advised the Forum that officers were in weekly dialogue with representatives of high media to follow up broadband services and were in liaison with businesses to establish a longer term solution.
- Councillor Humby advised that he would feedback on specific information relating to the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Wales Street. However, the importance of timely changes was recognised to ensure there would be no detrimental impact to the changes to be implemented as part of the Movement Strategy going forward.

- Initial negotiations had taken place with bus providers in Winnall to address service provision in this specific area and all possibilities were being investigated. This would form part of the Movement Strategy.
- In relation to queries regarding access pathways through Imber Road and to the park from Winnall Valley Road, The Head of Economy and Arts advised the Forum that an update on the latest position would be provided in due course. It was noted that upon commencement of The Corporate Head of Engagement works would be monitored closely to ensure accurate reporting.
- Councillor Humby stated that there had been significant damage to the road surfaces caused by the cold weather over the previous month which had resulted in repairs bill that would cost in the region of £10m. The County Council had set aside £3m for the area with Winnall forming part for the 'bigger picture' for road improvements across the Town Centre and the District as a whole.
- It was considered that the housing opportunities should form part of The Winnall Planning Framework to achieve a sense of community safety and community association so this aspect was not lost. However, it was recognised that employment in Winnall should be the priority. The Head of Economy and Arts reported that she would liaise with officers regarding the community development going forward and would meet with Basepoint in Winnall to investigate this matter and provide a detailed response in due course.
- It was reported that work was being carried out to establish a bus forum and that an approach would be taken to liaise with businesses. It was acknowledged there was difficulty engaging with businesses generally so any assistance Members could provide to encourage businesses in participating in a Forum would be appreciated.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be received and the comments of the Forum be noted.

6. **PROGRESS ON THE VISION FOR THE THEATRE ROYAL –
PRESENTATION BY DERYCK NEWLAND, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
(CEO) OF LIVE THEATRE WINCHESTER TRUST**
(Oral Report)

The Chairman welcomed Deryck Newland, Chief Executive Officer of Live Theatre Winchester Trust to the meeting. Mr Newland provided a presentation to the Forum outlining the latest financial and management position, the progress made since his appointment to the role of CEO in March 2017, the

vision and strategic objectives and the aspirations for the future in relation to the transformation of the building and income generation going forward.

Following the presentation, Members raised various points in relation to the Hat Fair location, the redesign of the Theatre in relation to patron numbers and further opportunities for outdoor performance which were addressed accordingly. Mr Newland further stated that it was recognised that engagement with a wider demographic to promote and encourage attendance at the Hat Fair was key to the future sustainability of the event.

In conclusion, Mr Newland stated that it was the intention of Live Theatre Winchester Trust to generate a surplus over the next four year period in order to build up a reserve going forward to secure the future of the Theatre.

The Chairman thanked Mr Newland for his informative presentation and for the work that had been achieved by the Trust over the past year.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the presentation be noted.

7. **REMOVAL OF COMMERCIAL WASTE BINS FROM THE TOWN CENTRE –
PROGRESS UPDATE**
(Oral Report)

The Forum received a progress update and presentation by the Head of Environment and the Neighbourhood Services Officer outlining the latest position.

The Head of Environment reminded Members of the model adopted by Westminster City Council in 2017 to address commercial waste bins in their area. The work carried out by the Council had been based on this model to target commercial waste bins to 'hotspot' areas in the Town Centre.

It was reported that a new bin storage compound had been provided in Cossack Lane. This had been fitted with a digital locking system to allow the effected businesses access to store their commercial waste bins securely within marked bays. This new approach adopted by the Council sought to address the storage issues of commercial waste bins in specific Town Centre locations, in a similar manner to those adopted by Westminster City Council.

The Head of Environment advised that an initial three stage process had been followed to target businesses. An introductory letter was issued late last year with a follow up in January 2018 and a third final letter chasing up any outstanding businesses was in the process of being delivered. It was noted that the process had included communication planning with Hampshire Highways and the Winchester BID, who were fully supportive of the approach being taken, and good all round communication and co-operation from the businesses in the Town Centre using the facility.

Members' attention was drawn to a series of photographs where on street commercial waste bins had now been removed in the following locations:

- Little Minister Street;
- Cross Keys Passage;
- St Maurice's Covert;
- Middle Brook Street;
- Market Road;
- Kings Walk;
- Friarsgate; and
- Hammonds Passage

It was reported that the second phase of the project included jet washing of the highway at these locations by the Streetcare Team and ongoing monitoring of bin storage going forward.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Forum thanked the Head of Environment and his team for their work in resolving this issue.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Forum welcomed the progress update and applauded the achievements of all officers involved in the project.

8. **PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE**
(Briefing Paper)

The Forum received a briefing paper by Mike Caldwell of the Pavilion Project which provided an update on the design process, the application of several grant funding streams, the outcomes of recent meetings with England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) and crowdfunding and sponsorship campaigns going forward to seek further funding in order to progress with the project.

RESOLVED:

That the Pavilion Project update be noted.

9. **WINCHESTER NIGHT BUS SERVICE UPDATE**
(Report WTF261 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the report which reminded Members that in June 2016 the Forum had resolved to support the funding of its Winchester night bus service for a further period of two years with a new contract commencing in September 2016 and the option to extend the contract by a further period of 12 months. It was reported that the contract was let through Hampshire County Council, with the service delivered by Stagecoach.

The Forum noted that the current contract for the Winchester Night Bus Service was due to expire in September 2018 and were asked to give consideration to whether they wished to continue financially supporting the service for an additional 12 months.

The Corporate Head of Regulatory stated that the Forum had supported the provision of the Winchester Night Bus since 2012. During 2017, it was noted that there was significant uplift in terms of passenger use.

In response, Members raised concern regarding the doubling up of services in certain areas, such as routes 66 and 5a buses which run up the Romsey Road and the inadequate provision of night bus services in other areas such as Winnall and Highcliffe. It was agreed that bus service provision on these routes would be investigated.

In conclusion, the Forum considered that it would look at the operation of the bus network in the whole of the Town area, including evening and late night services, when the results of the Winchester Movement Strategy were available and would provide a clear steer to the Corporate Head of Regulatory in advance for 2019 and beyond.

RESOLVED:

That, the funding of the existing contract for the Winchester Night Bus Service for a further 12 month period from September 2018, be supported.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.50pm

Chairman