



BEWDLEY
Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.00PM AT THE GUILDHALL**

PRESENT

Cllr Linda Candlin (Chair)
Cllr Calne Edginton-White
Cllr Mary Fishwick
Mrs Cat Banks
Mr Martin Guard

In attendance: Cllr Anna Coleman
Cllr Roger Coleman
Cllr Philip Edmundson
Nick Farress, Town Clerk

126 Apologies

Cllr Davies, Cllr Killingworth, Cllr Yarranton, Alison Bakr, Peter Michael, Richard Perrin and Kyle Daisley (Community Engagement and Events Officer).

127 Declarations of Interest

None

128 Dispensations

None

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public.

129 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

130 Together Group

The notes of the Together Group meeting held on the 17th October 2017 were received along with a written report from Cllr Davies in her absence. The report outlined recent activities and reported an uptake in the lunch club in particular. In terms of the activities, it was recognised that names known locally providing lectures would encourage more participants ie Max Keen and Heather Flack who have been booked for 2018. Cllr Davies wished to place on record her thanks to Cllr Linda Candlin whose contribution has been invaluable, along with all the other staff and volunteers. The Christmas party would be held on the 14th December and Kyle was organising this.

AGREED

That the notes and actions of the meeting of the Group held on the 17th October 2017 are accepted and approved and Cllr Davies's report is noted.

131 Road Safety working Group

The notes of a meeting of the Group held on the 18th September were received where the meeting welcomed County Councillor Becky Vale to the Group. Cllr Vale is currently working on getting a senior highways engineer to attend the next meeting so the Group can talk through all the schemes that have been on the table over the last few years, in order to progress to some action to tackle traffic congestion in the town centre. The Town Clerk advised that he had spoken to Cllr Vale about the concessions made by WFDC and WCC over air quality in relation to the Gladman planning application on the Lakes Road. This included the addition of a roundabout at the bottom of Welch Gate, or a change in the priorities. This would also be discussed at the next meeting of the Group when highways representatives were present.

AGREED

To accept and approve the actions and recommendations contained in the meeting notes dated 18th September 2017 and note the Town Clerk's update.

132 Neighbourhood Plan

The notes of meetings held on the 18th September and 9th October were received. Councillor Edmundson provided a written report to ask the Committee to agree to press ahead with the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) with the development sites in the Objectives and Policies consultation removed. This is due to the revised timetable for the Local Plan (LP) and that fact that Green Belt sites cannot be put forward in the NP until the LP has been adopted. This may be as late as 2020/2021. Taking the site allocations out of the NP would allow for a referendum on the NP in 2018. This would still be a robust and relevant NP but would need to be reviewed once the new LP has been adopted.

AGREED

- (i) That the notes and actions of the Steering Group from its meetings held on the 18th September and 9th October are accepted and approved;
- (ii) That this Committee supports the notion of moving to a referendum in 2018 with the housing sites removed, and **recommends this course of action to full Council.**

133 Town Plan

The Town Clerk advised that following approval from the Policy and Resources Committee to move forward with a traditional "Town Plan", this Committee has been asked to lead on this initiative and form a working group. The working group should include non-Councillor members. A Town Plan would sit alongside the Neighbourhood Plan and provide a strategy for delivering non-land use related projects in Bewdley.

AGREED

That Councillors Anna Coleman, Roger Coleman and Calne Edginton-White would form a working group to meet in January with officer support from the Town Clerk. An invitation will be extended to all Councillors and absent members of this Committee.

134 Car Parks

The Policy and Resources Committee added the acquisition of a car park to the Council's medium/long term strategic plan. The P&R Committee asked this Committee to consider appropriate sites in the town that could be used for this purpose. The Fire Station site and sites on Riverside North were discussed and the Town Clerk will make enquiries as to the ownership of these sites. The Town Clerk reported that he had made enquiries with WFDC about BTC taking on one

or more of their car parks in Bewdley and was advised that this would be highly unlikely.

AGREED

That Members consider and put forward any potential sites to the next meeting of the Committee in January 2018.

135 Bewdley Riverside Market

A verbal report was given by Cat Banks who had received feedback from traders about the twice monthly market on Load Street and Severnside South. Following a conversation with one negative trader, Mrs Banks conducted a small survey of traders in Load Street which revealed that the Sunday market has a negative affect for some, but has no affect for others. One trader recognised that whilst the market did not affect her sales in a positive way, she does have customers who have returned to Bewdley and her shop on non-market days as a result of the market. The Town Clerk viewed this repeat visits aspect as very important but difficult to quantify. Cllr Edginton-White said how busy the town was this last Sunday because of the market. Cllr Fishwick said that all the feedback from residents and visitors to the town she had spoken to had been positive. Mrs Banks asked whether a representative of LSD Promotions could be visible and contactable on market days so that any issues on the day could be resolved quickly. Cllr Roger Coleman asked whether we could offer a free stall to local businesses.

Mrs Banks also reported that the Traders Group chaired by Dave Carr from Bewdley Brewery had been "mothballed" due to lack of interest. There may be a new traders group in the town but there had been no official communication with the Council.

AGREED

- (i) That Cllr Edginton-White ask LSD Promotions to provide a visible presence in the town on market days, and/or provide an advertised telephone number;
- (ii) That Cllr Edginton-White and the Community Engagement and Events Officer consider the feasibility of local traders having a stall at the market.

136 Events Working Group

Councillor Calne Edginton White Chair of the Events Working Group presented the draft programme of events for 2018. One amendment was that the market would start on the 18th March and not the 5th March as stated. The market would continue to be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays with 5 special bank holiday Monday markets. The only Saturday market would be for Heritage Weekend in September.

AGREED

That the 2018 events and markets programme is approved.

137 New Car Park and Green Space – Load Street

Martin Guard updated the Committee following an earlier meeting with Steve Brant, Operational Services Manager at WFDC who has now taken on the project management of the new lower car park. Work was due to start last Monday 13th, but there had been some pre-start planning conditions that are still being finalised which have caused further delays. The Town Council can design and landscape the green space as they see fit, with a possible opening/access from opposite St George's Hall café. Concern was raised about the health of the copper beech tree which would also be part of the land transfer and Mr Brant would obtain an up to date survey of the tree to pass onto the Town Council. Cllr Roger Coleman suggested that the Town Council commission an independent survey of the tree

before any agreement is reached. The exact measurements of the space were still not available as the final plans won't be released until the pre-start conditions have been met. However, Mr Guard said that he was happy with the materials (fencing etc) that were being proposed based on a plan provided by Mr Brant. A lighting plan would also be provided to establish whether the green space will be illuminated. The Town Clerk reminded Members that the agreement to take on the green space from WFDC was in principle only at this stage. Further meetings would be held with Mr Brant going forward as he is very happy to work with the Town Council as the car park project progresses.

138 Mobility Scooters on Pavements

As requested by Councillor Fishwick at the last meeting, the issue of anti-social use of mobility scooters on the pavements particularly coming over the bridge was discussed. Cllr Fishwick had experience of scooters taking up too much of the narrow pavement and causing injury to a person recently. Cllr Candlin advised the meeting that using scooters on the pavement is entirely legal and is in fact encouraged. However speeds cannot exceed 4mph. Cllr Fishwick was provided with a contact number for the County Councillor to raise issues about the narrow pavement on the bridge.

139 Future Agenda Items

Any future agenda items should be forwarded to the Town Clerk.

Date and Time of Next Meetings

To note that the next bi-monthly meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held on **Monday 15th JANUARY 2018** at **5.30pm** in the Guildhall.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Chairman Community Development Committee – 15th January 2018