



BEWDLEY
Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2016 AT 6.00PM AT THE GUILDHALL**

PRESENT

Cllr Linda Candlin (Chair)
Cllr Calne Edginton-White
Cllr Mary Fishwick
Cllr John Beeson
Cllr Derek Killingworth
Mr Martin Guard
Mrs Alison Bakr
Mrs Cat Banks

In attendance: Nick Farress, Town Clerk
Barbara Byng, Assistant Town Clerk
Kyle Daisley, Community Engagement & Events Officer
Six members of the public

41 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Richard Perrin.

42 Declarations of Interest

None.

43 Dispensations

None.

Public Question Time

Details are included at the end of these minutes, under Public Period.

44 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2016 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

45 Neighbourhood Plan

Actions and Notes from the last meeting of the NP Steering Group were noted, The Town Clerk advised that useful meetings have been held with District Council Planners to align aims and objectives. The ATC is presently working on reviewing and amending draft objectives to ensure compliance with planning guidance. A report will be made to the Steering Group in January 2017 on progress made, with the next step being the production of a Draft Plan.

Cllr Killingworth requested that the Town Council is kept up-to-date with Plan progress and the Town Clerk assured him that all Councillors receive copies of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's agendas and meeting notes and also have the opportunity to attend these meetings and raise any questions.

Cllrs Beeson and Edginton-White expressed their wishes for the Plan to be robust, to align with policies within the emerging Local Plan, but not necessarily to wait for it.

46 Bewdley Traders Group

Mrs Cat Banks reported that the Group had met recently and had a positive meeting. Issues discussed had included:

- potential 'borrowing' of BDT website for advertising
- poppy wreath laid this year
- lack of available parking for coaches and the subsequent impact on a drop in trade. Cllr Beeson suggested lobbying for this and Cllr Killingworth said coach operators need to be told they can drop off passengers in town and park for free at the W.M. Safari Park. (Town Clerk to progress this.)
- lack of weekend additional parking at the Medical Centre by raising of 'staff' car park barrier. Cllr Beeson agreed to chase this up with the Practice as per their original agreement to allow access at weekends and for big events
- concerns re drugs in public toilets and people banned from the town seen (Town Clerk to make this known to the Local Policing Team).

47 Events & Markets Working Group

Cllr Edginton-White referred to the forthcoming Victorian Christmas event (Saturday 26th November) and thanked the Community Events Officer (Kyle Daisley) for his all his hard work, enthusiasm and commitment in its organisation. She also thanked staff at Bewdley Museum and the Town Clerk and, in turn, was praised by Alison Bakr for her participation and support throughout.

The co-operation and enthusiasm from traders in Bewdley was also highlighted by Cllr Edginton-White. Thirty-five businesses have signed up so far to a competition which, it is hoped, will encourage visitors coming to the event to explore the town's shops seeking Christmas ducks, from which they can win a prize of tickets on the Severn Valley Railway. Many shops/businesses have decorated their windows in a Victorian Christmas theme and have agreed to stay open later throughout the event. Arrangements regarding stalls and entertainment to be provided were also reconfirmed.

The Community Events Officer advised the meeting that 250 letters have been sent out to local residents/businesses who may be affected by the required road closure and all due steps have been taken to inform and minimise disruption.

(Cllr Killingworth and Mrs Banks left the meeting due to prior appointments.)

48 Health Services Liaison Group

The Town Clerk reported that the first meeting with Partners from Bewdley Medical Centre is planned to take place in the next fortnight. Feedback will be provided at January's meeting.

49 Police Liaison Group

The report (item 9) relating to the meeting held on 19th October 2016, prepared by the Town Clerk, was duly noted.

50 Green Space, Load Street Car Park

(a) Discussion took place regarding naming of this new asset, now agreed in principle by the District Council to transfer ownership to Bewdley Town Council. At the suggestion of Cllr Beeson, it was **agreed** that a selection of suitable names be compiled and placed on the council's website for public 'vote'. The Town Clerk will progress this.

(b) Martin Guard raised concerns on the new proposed WFDC Load Street Car Park Plans and talked about the dangers to pedestrian safety, e.g. when walking through Load Street car park to the Medical Centre and/or Dog Lane car park. There was general agreement that the District Council have paid no attention to this in their plans and proposals for the area and action needs to be taken to address this. It was pointed out that, until the previous car park layout, there had always been a walled pathway running alongside the Library which enabled people to walk safely to the old Medical Centre. The ATC pointed out that the Case Officer had been appraised of the situation as and when plans for the new Medical Centre were first received – but unfortunately the response had been negative.

Mr Guard also pointed out the present WFDC plan for the Green Space had failings in that a pleasant, grassed area for people to walk through, sit in and enjoy was preferable, rather a concreted area. He pointed out how seating in the this space could be better situated and felt that the opportunity should not be missed to ensure this area reflects the Town Council's vision. It was **agreed** that Mr Guard will design a revised draft layout, for consideration at the next meeting.

Suggestions were also put forward regarding placing a small 'history board' (like that at the entrance to Gardener's Meadow Car Park), or a 'town map showing trails around the town' in the entrance to the Green Space. This would be especially useful for visitors to the town.

51 Re-siting of Town Notice Board

Discussion took place regarding the best place to site the Town Notice Board previously located on the wall at the entrance to the old Library in Load Street Car Park. The Community Engagement & Events Officer suggested that a good place to re-site the board would be on the wall outside St George's Hall, which is already a known 'information' area. Posters advertising Town Council events could also displayed here. It was **agreed** this will be further discussed at January's meeting after further investigation by the Town Clerk.

52 Community Flood Volunteers

Cllr Edginton-White provided an update on the last meeting held with the Community Flood Volunteers which had been very positive with participation from multi-agency representatives from the Environment Agency, County Highways and the Fire Service. A Handbook had been produced by the Town Clerk which will contribute to the overall plan. A further meeting of volunteers is due to take place in December with a practical training exercise also planned for the new year. Further volunteers are required particularly those who are not directly affected by flooding. A new campaign poster will be designed alongside a photo shoot/media release, and a volunteer recruitment event for all community groups is due to take place in the spring at St George's Hall.

53 Town Crier

Kyle Daisley reported that we now have a contact for a Town Crier that we can call upon for specific events. It was decided that the cost of a uniform to recruit a permanent Bewdley crier was prohibitive.

54 Future Agenda Items

Review of Christmas Lights Event
Tesco car park – pedestrian safety

Public Period

Jade Harris presented a new community interest company proposal to provide “not for profit” children’s nursery facilities in Bewdley. Miss Harris was thanked for her presentation and the Committee agreed to assist with promoting the new venture in any way it could.

Chief Inspector Ed Williams from WMP and Hilary Hollis from WFDC presented an overview of Team Wyre Forest, a partnership of local agencies tackling anti-social and environmental problems in the three town centres. Bewdley Town Council’s representative at the strategic level of the partnership was the Town Clerk and any issues or projects in Team Wyre Forest’s area of work should be discussed with the Town Clerk in the first instance.

Mrs Gill Holland of Beales Corner asked that communication with the Environment Agency and the community are improved particularly around the Beale’s Corner temporary defences project and including WFDC in the discussions. Cllr Edginton-White said that WFDC water management officer and emergency planning officers were already involved and that the Town Council was in discussions with them on a regular basis.

Date and Time of Next Meetings

To note that the next bi-monthly meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held on **Monday 16th JANUARY 2017** at **6.00 pm** in the Guildhall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed.....
Chairman Community Development Committee
16th January 2017