

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE  
HELD IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING AT  
BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, THE OLD COURT HOUSE  
4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE, SG18 8DL  
ON THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022 at 14:30 PM**

Present:	<b>BTC:</b> Cllr M North, Cllr M Russell (Deputy Chairman), Cllr H Ramsay, Cllr M North, Cllr C Thomas (via zoom) <b>CBC:</b> Cllr I Bond, Cllr Dr. H Whitaker, Cllr T Stock, Cllr M Foster (Chairman) <b>BTC Town Clerk &amp; Chief Executive:</b> Peter Tarrant <b>BTC Head of Governance &amp; Strategic Partnerships:</b> Karim Hosseini <b>BTC Finance Manager:</b> Rob Youngs <b>BTC Place Shaping Manager:</b> Isaac Lord <b>BTC Administrator:</b> Karen Saunders
In Attendance:	<b>CBC Community Engagement Manager:</b> Sarah Hughes <b>CBC Senior Community Engagement Officer:</b> Stephanie Bailey <b>CBC Highways Asset Manager:</b> Mark Eaton (via zoom) <b>CBC</b> (Principal Project Manager – Infrastructure Delivery) Nick Shaw <b>CBC</b> (Principal Highways Engineer) – Shahidullah Tarakhel <b>BTC</b> Cllr M Knight
Members of the public:	<b>None</b>

Following a reminder to Meeting attendees that this is a formal meeting, the Chair advised that members of the public will be given an opportunity to speak during public open session but not at other times. The meeting is being filmed and by being present attendees are deemed to have agreed to be filmed and to the use of those images and sound recordings. The Chair advised that attendees should not disclose any personal information of individuals as this would infringe the Data Protection Rights of the individual. The Chair asked everyone to mute their microphones when not speaking.

**PART A - ADMINISTRATION**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Steve Dixon

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – None declared.
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Cllr Mark Foster – Sorrell Gardens

**PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

To adjourn for a period of 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Committee, through the Chairman, pertaining to items listed on the Agenda. Each speaker to be allocated a 3-minute speaking slot.

 28/11/22

None.

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman advised the Committee that an item called 'cluster' relating to schools, will be consulted upon in the near future.

This will take into account the relocation of Ivel Valley School to a new site on land east of Biggleswade and the closure of the Older Persons Day Care Centre and relocation to Sorrell Gardens.

Sarah Hughes confirmed that there would be events planned at strategic times for local people so they can fully understand what the proposals are.

## **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Members reviewed and **APPROVED** the Minutes of the Biggleswade Joint Committee Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Page 2 – Cllr Russell stated that drawings of Lawrence Road will be going to consultation in the near future.

## **PART B – ECONOMY AND TOWN CENTRE**

### **HIGHWAYS UPDATES**

Shahidullah Tarakhel was unable to attend.

Mark Eaton gave an update in Shahidullah's absence. A presentation was given which showed where we are with footway resurfacing within this financial year, and what is still outstanding.

Mark indicated that a new schedule of works would be available in January 2023, this takes into account all footpaths around the area not just Biggleswade and work will depend on a priority and risk factor.

Mark gave an overview of how the priority and risk is assessed on each path/road using a points system.

Cllr Russell asked if an update could be given at the next Joint Committee.

Cllr Dr Whitaker asked if the street lighting could be looked at in some areas as there are a few actions still within the 'fix my street' portal.

### **Biggleswade S106 Fund Allocation**

Sarah Hughes updated Members on the S106 Fund Allocation.

A presentation was given by Sarah explaining how the fund is managed and what it is used for and how her role helps secure money for communities and village halls.

The presentation gave information of all section 106 funding which was agreed for our parish.

Sarah was thanked for her presentation and making it easy to understand.



## **Public Works Loan Application**

Karim Hosseini gave Members an update of where we are with the Public Works Loan. The loan has now been approved by the Department For Levelling Up.

Karim thanked all officers involved for their help. An update was given of how the Public Works Loan will be used in year one:

- Play area improvements at Franklins Recreation Area.
- Drove Road Chapel improvements.
- The Town Council Asset Project.

The timelines for commencement of the projects will be November 2022. The completion will be in phases up to March 2023.

We are at the selection process for the development of the Play Area Project and will be making our final selection very shortly.

Cllr Dr Whitaker asked if the consultation paper was available to view. The Town Clerk & Chief Executive, Peter Tarrant, responded that consultation had already taken place and he would seek advice as to how much information we can share.

## **Orchard Community Centre Update**

Isaac Lord thanked Sarah Hughes for the funding on modernising the Orchard Centre and allowing them to move to a more self-sufficient model which will see an online booking system and re-deployment and addition of the CCTV cameras into more prominent areas. There is currently £1,500 left in the budget which will go towards equipment which will make the Orchard more inclusive and attractive to hirers.

## **PART C – KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT UPDATES**

### **Sub-Station**

Sarah Hughes gave an update in her colleague's absence.

The planning conditions should be discharged soon, the road widening should commence shortly and the draft re-cycling and recovery strategy has been agreed.

### **Lindsell's Crossing**

The landscaping consultation is due to end on the 27<sup>th</sup> October. The contractor is on site.

Cllr Russell updated the Committee that a discussion had taken place with the Council and an objection in regards to the discharge of condition 3.


Cllr Dr Whitaker agreed that the plan does not work in its current state.

### **Transport Interchange**

Nick Shaw updated the Committee with regards to the interchange.

Some buildings have already been demolished – ducting and cabling have been incorporated underground.

The logistics with other contractors is working well and they are all joining up together.



Cllr Russell asked if Nick could update us on the road closure on Saffron Road scheduled to start on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Nick said that they would put in two-way traffic lights from Saffron Court to Foundry Lane.

Cllr North asked if there was any contingency for residents parking on Saffron Road whilst this work took place. Nick informed the Group that resident parking would not be affected.

### **Neighbourhood Plan Referendum**

It was noted that residents of Biggleswade approved the Neighbourhood Plan at referendum. Although the turnout was low, 83% voted in approval of the Neighbourhood Plan being adopted.

### **Work Plan**

Sarah Hughes updated the Committee on the Work Plan for the next meeting in January 2023:

- Housing Infrastructure Fund Projects
- Interchange
- Lindsell's Crossing
- Sub-station
- Education Project
- Highways Scheme 2023/2024
- Garden Communities – Sustainable Transport Corridor
- Community Engagement Group update

Cllr Russell requested an agenda item for discussion with regards to the bus routes around the town given the work happening with the transport interchange.

Cllr Russell also asked if the Local Plan could be added to discuss which areas of the plan would be reviewed.

Nick Shaw stated that discussing the bus routes in January would be too early as work will not be commissioned in until April 2023 which falls within the next financial year.

Cllr Mark Foster will pick up with Sarah Hughes and other officers at Central Beds Council on whether there will be sufficient information for it to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Sarah Hughes gave an update on the Community Asset Grant Scheme application and explained that there was £200K in the budget of which bids of £700K was received.

After going through a rigorous process, Biggleswade Theatre was awarded £24,000 which is good news.

Cllr Dr Whitaker asked if paper copies of agenda's could only be given to members who request them.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Meeting Closed

