

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BIGGLESWADE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2016 – 10.00AM IN ROOM 14**  
**AT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL, PRIORY HOUSE, MONKS WALK,**  
**CHICKSANDS, SHEFFORD SG17 5TQ**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr M Jones	Deputy Leader CBC (Chair)
Cllr I Bond	Cllr BTC
Cllr B Briars	Cllr BTC
Cllr M Foster	Cllr BTC
Cllr Mrs J Lawrence	Cllr CBC
Cllr D Lawrence	Cllr CBC
Mr P Fraser	CBC
Cllr Mrs M Russell	Cllr BTC
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay	Cllr BTC
Mr M Thomas	Biggleswade Chamber of Trade
Mr R McGregor	Town Clerk, BTC
Mrs J Durn	Administrator, BTC

Also present:

Cllr D Strachan                      Member of Public

**1.     APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr D Albone, Cllr T Woodward

**2.     MEMBERS INTERESTS**

To receive from members any declarations and the nature in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item: None received
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item: **Item 3 Members Questions**,  
Cllr D Albone, item 3.2

**3.     MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

To receive questions from members on items not already included on the agenda. Questions should relate to the terms of reference of the Joint Committee and be submitted at least two working days before the meeting.

**3.1    Question from Mr M Thomas: Business Rate Relief.**

Mr M Thomas voiced concerns regarding the continuing suffering of traders due to the bridge closure/ongoing works. There is confusion over the business rates reduction allowance that traders have requested to alleviate hardship.

Mr Thomas will provide the relevant information in order for Mr Fraser to follow this up.

- 3.2 Cllr D Albone sent his apologies for the meeting, and the following question was asked on his behalf: "The road markings and signs on the entrance to Biggleswade from the A1 South still direct traffic to Pottun through the town rather than via the new Eastern Relief Road. When will this be corrected? HGV's are still heading towards Pottun via London Road, Drove Road and Pottun Road. Is it time to divert the B1040 along the new relief road?"

The Chairman asked that CBC Highway Officers check the signage and take appropriate action. For clarification this a request to re-designate the route of the B1040 to use the Eastern Relief Road.

#### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received and approved the minutes of the BJC held on 20 April 2016.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

Matters arising from the minutes of the BJC held on 20 April 2016.

##### **Item 10: Biggleswade On-Street Parking, Report by Mr C Proto:**

Dialogue has taken place between BTC and CBC, however, no further progress has been made and BTC are still awaiting clarification and update from CBC.

**ACTION:** The Chairman asked that an update be provided for the next Agenda.

##### **Item 7: Stratton Street Bridge Update:**

The Chairman confirmed that there is still some outstanding work to be done covering the strengthening of the parapets. This work has been hampered due to problems of access, but we expect it to be completed in August, when the bollards will be removed.

##### **Item 6: Market Town Regeneration Bid:**

Cllr Mrs M Russell, and Cllr I Bond asked for clarification of the reasons why the BTC bid had been refused. BTC Town Clerk has asked CBC for a more detailed response, but has yet to receive a reply.

This will be discussed under Agenda item 11, Regeneration Update, Shop Front Scheme presentation.

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

- 6.1 A request has been received from Marks & Spencer for their Store Manager and Finance Manager to join the Biggleswade Joint Committee as Co-opted members.

Members agreed that this would be welcome, and perhaps the M&S representatives would be prepared to represent the other stores in the retail park area.

- 6.2 Cllr D Lawrence has requested a strategic map for Biggleswade. This item is being looked at by CBC, and will be brought forward to the next BJC Meeting.
- 6.3 The Chairman reported that an Executive Paper entitled "Vision for Health Hubs in and around the area" will shortly be published. It is hoped that this will be available at the next BJC Meeting.

## **7. BRIEFING ON MEETING THE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE IN THE IVEL VALLEY AREA**

Mr Tim Hoyle, MANOP Team, CBC gave a comprehensive presentation covering the investment of CBC in securing both adequate mainstream housing accommodation, as well as extra care housing for older people with more complex needs across Central Bedfordshire.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hoyle for the in-depth presentation and the information booklets, which were circulated.

A Consultation will follow and Members will be updated.

## **8. TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE**

The Chairman has requested that the transport interchange road works be brought forward, and will bring full details to the next meeting.

The parking programme will be implemented from 5 August. Information can be obtained from Gary Baldwin at CBC.

## **9. HITCHIN STREET**

The concerns regarding the bad state of repair in Hitchin Street are being addressed.

## **10. ASDA CAR PARK**

CBC Enforcement Team are in contact with ASDA in order to enforce correct signage information covering the parking regulations.

**11. REGENERATION UPDATE**

Members received a presentation from Jodie Yandel covering the Shop Front Scheme, which is a £1m scheme to invest in shop fronts across the market towns, and follows on from the recent Regeneration funding programme.

Explanatory documents will be produced and issued to both Biggleswade Town Council and Biggleswade Businesses. An “Expression of interest” will be included in the package, and Businesses will be invited complete this paperwork in order to register interest in the project.

A formal plan will be presented at the next BJC Meeting.

**12. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

MOP, A Biggleswade town councillor requested CBC to make the MANOP presentation to a town council meeting.

Meeting closed at 11.35am

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Signed as Approved  
**Chairman**