

Houghton Regis Town Partnership Meeting
13th June 2017 at 7pm

Present:	Central Bedfordshire	J Kane	Chairman
	Councillors:	Mrs S Goodchild	
		Ms A Ryan	
		A Swain	
	Houghton Regis		
	Town Councillors:	D Abbott	
		Ms J Hillyard	
		C Slough	
		K Wattingham	
	Officers:	Clare Evans	Town Clerk, HRTC
		Sarah Hughes	Community Engagement Manager, CBC
Also Present:	Houghton Regis	Mrs T McMahon	
	Town Councillors:	J Carroll	
		Ms L Ellaway	
	Public:	2	
Apologies:	Central Bedfordshire		
	Councillors:	D Abbott	
	Houghton Regis		
	Town Councillor:	Karen Lang	Community Engagement Officer, CBC
	Officers:		

734 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Members were invited to put forward nominations for Chair of the Houghton Regis Town Partnership Committee.

In accordance with the approved Committee Functions & Terms of Reference this position should be filled by a Central Bedfordshire Councillor.

Nominees:	Cllr J Kane	Nominated by:	Cllr A Swain
		Seconded by:	Cllr Ms J Hillyard

There were no other nominations.

On being put to the vote Cllr J Kane was elected as Chair of the Houghton Regis Town Partnership Committee.

735 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Members were invited to put forward nominations for Vice Chair of the Houghton Regis Town Partnership Committee.

In accordance with the approved Committee Functions & Terms of Reference this position should be filled by a Houghton Regis Town Councillor.

completed as residents had helped to shape the project.

738 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

739 MINUTES

Minute 730 – CBC Update Report

It was confirmed that CBC enforcement officers had meet with head of Tithe Farm school and work was ongoing around parking around the school.

In addition drainage issues around Thomas Whitehead school ~~and Tithe Farm School~~ were being investigated by CBC Highways.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2017 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

740 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Town Centre Projects Task & Finish Group 27th March 2017.

The Working Group was thanked for their work to date and it was advised that the programme of events looked very good.

Resolved: To notes the Minutes of the Town Centre Projects Task & Finish Group 27th March 2017.

741 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of the Town Partnership Committee were invited to provide verbal reports on matters of relevance to Houghton Regis arising in particular from the Committee/s on which they serve.

Cllr Ryan (CBC Children's Services) advised:

- Recently there had been discussion around the schools funding formulae. It was anticipated that there would be significant losses which would have a significant impact on schools and education. It was suggested that this may change following the national election;
- In relation to the Children's Services Transformation Plan it was advised that an area would receive the same amount of funding from CBC regardless of how many children's centers there were in that area. The plan was referred back to officers for more detail on how it would affect Houghton Regis.
- There were less looked after children now.

Cllr Swain (CBC Corporate Services Committee) advised:

- The Committee was considering improving IT infrastructure

Cllr Mrs Goodchild (Social Care Health And Housing O&SC) advised:

- There had been a positive outcome on reports on service performance. A much more personalised service for out of hospital settings had been established;
- Reviewed the primary care strategy
- The Authority was seeking to reduce homelessness through reviewing the Lets Rent. Figures were currently 37 in Central Bedfordshire.

Cllr Wattingham (HRTC Community Services Committee) advised that the Committee had yet to meet this council year.

Cllr Slough commented that this Committee in the previous council year had renewed the Operation Hana contract and would be reviewing the suggested Outside Services Officers post in due course.

Cllr Abbott (HRTC Corporate Services Committee) had considered a condition report on the council offices. The report had raised concerns and the matter had been referred back to Town Council.

742 CBC UPDATE REPORT

Members considered an update report from Central Bedfordshire Council, including:

1. Community Safety
 - ASB & Statutory Nuisance Team
 - CCTV incidents
2. Leisure, Libraries and Countryside
 - Houghton Hall Park – Parks for People Lottery Project
 - Houghton Regis Leisure Centre
3. Highways & Transport
 - Highways
 - Parking consultation
 - Parking & enforcement
4. Youth Services
 - Update on NEETS within the wider CBC area
 - NEET Overview for Houghton Regis
5. Schools
 - School admissions
 - School organization
6. Waste Regeneration
7. Regeneration / Business
 - Business & Investment Update
 - Inward investment & Business Growth
 - Inward investment
 - Business Support
 - High street vacancy levels
8. Employment & Skills
9. Partnership and Community Engagement
 - Cheering Volunteering 2017
10. Communications
 - CBC Website
 - Draft Local Plan

11. Democratic Services
12. Social Care, Health & Housing
 - Houghton Regis Central
 - Just Ask
13. Public Health
 - Stop Smoking
 - NHS Health Check
 - Obesity & Excess Weight
 - Commissioned Services

The following points were made:

- At the Cheering Volunteering event Houghton Regis groups well represented especially in the volunteer groups;
- The new section in the report on Communications had referred to a new feature on CBC website to assist those with visual and hearing limitations;
- An update on the draft local plan had been recently circulated by email;
- CBC Cllr Delagno had recently visited the High Street, consideration of the issues was ongoing;
- Recent works at the leisure centre have much improved the centre for users;
- It was confirmed that the CCTV control room would be requested to retain footage relating to anti social behavior in Bedford Square;
- It was requested that a visit to the CCTV control room be arranged;
- Responses to queries raised at the last meeting were circulated;
- It was queried how the town council would respond to the draft local plan in relation to Windsor Drive having been included in the call for sites process. It was advised that the draft Local Plan would be presented to HRTC's Planning Committee initially and it was suggested that HRTC may consider promoting the consultation on the draft Plan especially in relation to Windsor Drive;
- Concerns were raised over the volume and speed of traffic on Parkside Link. This has already been referred to CBC and a response was awaited. It was advised that Houghton Regis Speedwatch had applied to add this location to their programme;
- There was general consensus that the opening of the A5 M1 link had reduced traffic through the town. Specifically though it was commented that the traffic lights onto Wheatfield Rd did not appear to be on a sensor which caused significant holds up. It was requested that this be addressed. In addition it was also advised that there was a sign off the link road for Parkside Community Centre when there was no such location. It was requested that this be addressed as it may cause confusion should travelers be looking for an alternative venue in the town.

743 REVIEW OF JOINT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Following on from the member briefing on 5th June members considered an amended draft Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference would next be considered at a round table meeting and the Chair and Vice Chair and clerk would be invited to participate.

744 ESTATE REGENERATION FUNDING

