

**Houghton Regis Town Partnership Meeting
30th April 2019 at 7pm**

Present: Central J Kane Chairman
Bedfordshire Ms A Ryan
Councillors:

Houghton Regis D Dixon-Wilkinson
Town Councillors: K Wattingham

HRTC Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services
CBC Officers: Mrs S Hughes Community Engagement
Manager

Public: 0

CBC Councillors: A Swain
Mrs S Goodchild
Apologies: 0

Absent: Councillors: Mrs T McMahon
Ms L Ellaway

807 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

No apologies were received.

808 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

809 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2019.

Matters arising: an update was requested regarding the planning application CB/18/04641/REG3 under question from the last meeting, members were advised that there was no update to date.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2019 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

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

Councillor Goodchild updated members on the Corporate Parenting Panel: a report had been considered to understand the population of looked after children in Bedfordshire, public can attend and participate. Also considered was a report from the Adoption Agency, specifically regarding the work around personal advisors.

Members were advised that the meeting of Social Care and Housing was held on 18th March, which looked at how the social care system considered the winter months. At this meeting, it had been discussed how people waiting for housing would wait for a longer period to gain a home in Houghton Regis rather than Dunstable, and it was encouraging that older people were choosing to live in Houghton Regis.

Councillor Ryan advised members that to date there were no updates on Child Services.

Central Bedfordshire Council had completed work on domestic violence and the numbers had shown a positive impact. 1:4 women would experience domestic violence and Central Bedfordshire Council were working together with police and schools.

Councillor Kane updated members on the MAG meeting, HRN1 and HRN2 development had broken ground, expectation was that there would be a building on each plot by the end of the year, Linden homes were expecting occupation by September 2019. Members discussed that now buildings were being built, s106 monies could be utilised.

Disappointment was expressed that the boundary had not changed to incorporate Chalton Parish.

Councillor Kane requested transparency regarding s106 money to ensure that it was not moved around or gets reallocated to a different council. Members agreed that they were looking forward to seeing the essential infrastructure and were looking to revitalize the Recreation Centre with all parties working together.

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members were invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan.

Members were encouraged to have a forward plan. Concerns were raised regarding doctor provision in Houghton Regis. Clinical Commissioning Groups (part of the NHS) were focusing on medical centres, however, Dunstable and Biggleswade were scheduled before Houghton Regis which indicated that it would be several years before Houghton Regis Medical Centre would be in operation.

It was requested that an update be provided on an interim plan for Houghton Regis in lieu of the Health Hub.

Members were advised that HRN1 had plans in place to provide two medical facilities, and if agreed with NHS, this would be included in 1st phase in HRN1.

It was requested that school places be included on future workplans. Members were advised that some residents had requested that the building of schools be brought forward, however, s106 money was not available with the number of houses built. It was suggested that some of the s106 money be spent on the older school buildings as these were looking tired and were in need of repair.

It was requested that parking strategy also be included on future workplans as there had been no change in Town Centre parking.

Members agreed that the order of items on the workplan would be as follows:

1. Health
2. Schools
3. Parking

Members were advised that there was provision in the Terms of Reference to arrange special meetings.

Members requested that estate regeneration be included in the workplan and discussed at each meeting, with details of how the 'new Houghton Regis' would integrate with the 'old Houghton Regis'.

CBC UPDATE REPORT

Members received the CBC update report.

Members received an update on the parking at Houghton Hall Park, it had been agreed that Moore Crescent Car Park would be open at larger events for a trial period, marshalled by the event organiser.

Members were advised:

- The Recreation Centre was to refurbish their spinning area and the squash courts.
- Library was to visit schools to promote their services
- The streetlights by the Chequers had been repaired
- The bus shelters had been cleaned
- Café Connect were aiming to commission more sessions as they had received funding until July.

It was requested that the Community Engagement Manager investigate whether the replacement lamps were to be LED's. (light emitting diodes) as these were more cost effective to run.

It was requested that cheering volunteering be mentioned to new members, and tickets for the event being held at the Grove on 4th June could be purchased directly from the Grove Theatre.

JOINT COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members received a report on the joint Committee Terms of Reference for consideration.

Members were advised that this was the final draft of the Terms of Reference and no further amendments would be made, it was requested that this committee formally recommend to Town Council that this be adopted.

Members reminded the Community Engagement Manager that at the last meeting it was requested that it stated within the Terms of Reference that the Chair and Vice-Chair would alternate between Houghton Regis Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council year on year, however this had not been included in the Terms of Reference.

It was agreed that during the first meeting members would agree that Chair and Vice-Chair would alternate between Houghton Regis Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council year on year and would be included in the minutes.

Members agreed this in principle.

Resolved: To note the report.

Councillor Goodchild wished to thank members for the 4 years she had been a member of this Partnership Committee, thanked staff and wished everyone best wishes going forward.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Dated this day 23rd July 2019.

Chairman

DRAFT