



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 23RD JANUARY 2012

PRESENT: Cllr. T. Gardiner (Chairman), Cllrs: Mrs. E. Anderson, J. Brooks,
Mrs. S. Daniells (until Minute 98), Ms. K. Davis and W. Toovey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. S. Holmes. (Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services)
Mrs. L. Gill. (Clerical Assistant)
Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)
3 Councillors and 24 members of the public in the public gallery

The Meeting opened at 6.30pm

78. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Mrs. J. Warr, and J. Lawrence.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda.

Members and Officers should declare an interest by stating:-

- a) The item they have an interest in
- b) Whether it is a personal interest and the nature of the interest
- c) Whether it is also a prejudicial interest
- d) If it is a prejudicial interest, whether they will be exercising their right to speak under Question Time.

They then need to re-declare their interest and the nature of the interest at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

In accordance with good practice, individual forms were available to those Councillors present in order that they could personally record their interests - both Prejudicial and Personal. These forms to be returned to the Committee Clerk at the end of the meeting to enable all declarations of interest to be accurately recorded in the Minutes.

The Committee noted that there were no Declarations of Interest made at this point in the Meeting.

80. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2011

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21st November 2011, were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the presiding Chairman.

81. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 6.35pm.

Members of the public spoke about issues raised in the Leisure Strategy and their concerns, including a letter that had already been handed to the Town Mayor. The Chairman agreed that the points raised would be considered at the appropriate Agenda item.

The Meeting re-convened at 6.43pm.

82. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES WHICH ARE NOT SEPARATE AGENDA ITEMS

82.1 21st November – Min. 64 Issues regarding the untidy state of certain Arun-owned premises in the town

This issue has been raised during a meeting with Anthony Everitt, Arun Senior Economic Development Officer and will be followed up with his department. A walking tour of the town is due to take place shortly, involving both Arun and BRTC Councillors and staff, to look at areas in the town centre where improvements could be made to create a more pleasing shopping experience.

82.2 21st November – Min. 69 Update from Arun in connection with the demolished seafront shelter and future plans for the area

As requested, Arun has been written to on this issue. They have been advised that the Council's preferred replacement would be a new shelter with seating designed in a way to discourage rough sleepers and asked that they provide an update on the future plans for this area.

82.3 21st November – Min. 70 Provision of cycle racks

This issue was debated by the P & R Committee, who agreed to the additional funding to install 3 racks at each of the sites in the wards of Bognor Regis. A meeting has taken place with interested parties regarding the site of each of the racks along the Promenade area. The installation sites outside of the four wards have also been visited by The Town Force Co-ordinator and a member of Town Force and a quotation for the estimated cost of the work will be prepared and sent to Arun for their approval before the work commences. WSCC have also advised that Bognor Regis Town Council will not require licences for the racks being installed in pavement areas.

82.4 21st November – Min. 71 Draft Public Health Plan for West Sussex

At the last E & L meeting this Draft document was briefly considered, although it was felt that it was something that the Council had limited knowledge of, having been produced by health professionals. It was agreed that the Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services would put together a response to this document but due to the short time-scale, this had not been possible.

83. PRESENTATION FROM SU CLOUD ON POSSIBLE WAYS TO CREATE A PERMANENT CREATIVE ARTS SPACES IN BOGNOR REGIS

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 6.45pm for Su Cloud to make her presentation on a proposed Community Arts Centre for Bognor Regis. This would give a centre for display of local Art and encourage creative talent. She is seeking permanent premises for this and would like to put on a weekend Arts Festival to show what could be achieved. Ms Cloud is seeking the support of the Council to take this project further.

The Chairman thanked Su Cloud for her presentation and Members were supportive of the proposed ideas and wished Ms Cloud well in taking her project further.

The Meeting re-convened at 6.55pm

84. UPDATE ON COMMEMORATIVE CLOCK – MIN. 63 REFERS

The Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services reported on the current position regarding permissions required in order to proceed with the installation of the new clock. The report included details of the additional funding of £1,000 allocated by the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting of 6th December, to cover the additional costs of obtaining permissions and licences. The report was **NOTED**.

85. TO CONSIDER REPLACEMENT/REPAIR OF UP-LIGHTERS AND PEA-LIGHTS BOGNOR REGIS HIGH STREET, REFERRED FROM P & R COMMITTEE MEETING 12TH MECEMBER 2011 - MIN. 109.6 REFERS

Following a discussion on the current pealights and uplights members requested that two quotations be sought, one for replacing the pealights and one for the uplights. A Councillor suggested that with the newer type LED lights available it might be better to replace the pealights with a warm white LED which would look less harsh than the bright white ones. The Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services will obtain the quotations and report back at the next meeting.

86. WARD ALLOCATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS BUDGET INCLUDING: ANY PROPOSALS FOR 2011/2012 BUDGET FOR ORCHARD, HOTHAM, MARINE OR PEVENSEY WARDS AND CONSIDERATION OF REMOVAL OF TWO BENCHES IN LEWES CLOSE

Members were reminded that their Ward Allocation money has to be spent or earmarked for a specific project by the end of March or it will be lost.

The Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services read from her report. Two benches which had been repaired from Ward Allocation money have once again been vandalised and both WSCC and ADC suggest these be removed and not replaced again. Following discussion it was **AGREED** that the benches should be removed.

87. CONSIDERATION OF THE RENEWAL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

- a) NATIONAL PIERS SOCIETY - £25 PER ANNUM
- b) RAILFUTURE (RAILWATCH MAGAZINE) - £21 PER ANNUM

It was **RESOLVED** to renew both subscriptions as detailed above.

88. TO RATIFY RESPONSE TO THE LATEST STAGE OF W.S.C.C. CONSULTATION ON POTENTIAL CHANGES TO SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES

The Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services reported that unfortunately she had not been able to respond before the deadline. Following a discussion it was **AGREED** that she would produce a letter regarding this and circulate it to Members for consideration.

89. ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS BUDGET 2012/2013 – TO RATIFY FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR SEAFRONT LIGHTS AND CONFIRM HOW FUNDING IS TO BE AWARDED

The Committee **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the funding allocation for seafront lights and to pay these at the same time as the Grant Aid funding.

90. TO CONSIDER EMAIL FROM WEST SUSSEX WASTE INITIATIVES REGARDING A NEW INITIATIVE TO DIVERT FOOD WASTE FROM LANDFILL SITES

Following a discussion about the email received from the Waste Initiatives Team regarding their search for venues to host a promotional event to promote Food Waste Digesters, the Committee **AGREED** to offer to host an event at Bognor Regis Town Hall. ADC has agreed to allow the Council Chamber to be used at no cost.

91. UPDATE ON STEYNE GARDENS – MIN. 66 REFERS

The Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services read from her report. Members advised the dates they would be able to attend a meeting with officers from Arun District Council regarding previously identified issues in the Gardens which the Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services will pass on to ADC. Members would be notified of the date and time of the Meeting.

92. IN BLOOM WORKING PARTY – CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS IN THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JANUARY 2012

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the Resolutions, Recommendations and Reports from the Notes of the meeting held on 12th January, subject to any amendments decided upon at this meeting, previously circulated.

- 92.1** A suggestion had been made last year to move some hanging baskets to the new Museum but it had been decided not to fund this at that time. However the In Bloom Working Party had requested it be looked at again and the Museum have indicated they are keen to have the baskets. The Committee asked the Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services to investigate the costs involved in moving baskets to the Museum and report back at the next meeting.

93. UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS, INCLUDING RATIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE:

- a) **CHRISTMAS TREE FOR RAILWAY STATION AT A COST OF £180**
- b) **REFURBISHMENT OF STAR MOTIF FOR TOWN HALL, AT A COST OF £115 PLUS VAT**
- c) **REPLACEMENT OF TWO FAULTY TIMERS, AT A COST OF £136.50 EACH, PLUS VAT**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the additional expenditure as detailed. Following a discussion regarding certain lights and strings not working during the Christmas period, the Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services said that she was waiting for a report from the contractor as to the reasons for this. A Member stated that it was very disappointing that so much was off for so much of the time, and there were so many issues with the lights not working properly despite the efforts of the Committee to provide a good show. The Committee asked the Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services to write a letter to the contractor expressing their disappointment and stating that they felt the service didn't come up to expectation. It was also suggested that an investigation be held into whether Southern Electricity's streetlights were to blame for any of the lights not working due to shorting out problems, and if so request some compensation from Southern Electricity.

94. CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION DOCUMENT "PLANNING PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN BERSTED, BOGNOR REGIS" REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

The Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services referred to her report. Following a discussion about the effects the suggested changes would have on the children of Bognor Regis it was **AGREED** that Members would forward their comments to The Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services to enable a draft response to be prepared.

95. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO VISITORS AND ISSUE OF VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE, REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

Members discussed both the service provided by the new VIC Lite and the new Sussex-by-the-Sea brochure. They felt that the VIC service was not as promised, with lack of information available and short opening hours, only open Monday to Friday. The brochure is significantly smaller than last years and in the Committee's opinion did not present the area as a holiday destination adequately. Members **AGREED** a letter should be written to ADC to express their concerns on both these matters. The Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services will draft this for consideration.

96. ARUN STEERING GROUP FOR THE CONCESSIONS STRATEGY REVIEW. REPORT OF MEETING ATTENDED – HEAD OF STREET SCENE AND LEISURE SERVICES

The Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services read from her report which was **NOTED**. There have been meetings with ADC regarding their Concessions Review looking at how concessions, street traders, markets and street entertainers are governed and regulated across Arun.

97. TO CONSIDER THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ‘PLANNING FOR CULTURE AND LEISURE PROVISION IN ARUN TO 2028’, PRODUCED BY COLLIER INTERNATIONAL, EXCLUDING ST MODWEN/MINIPLEX PROPOSALS

The Committee **RESOLVED** to adjourn the Meeting at 7.50pm to enable Councillors who are not Committee Members to speak on this item

When reviewing the document the following general comments were made, which Members felt were relevant to the Strategy:

- There is a lack of hotels, both in Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. It was, however, recognised that this was market led
- The Consultants should have looked at what other seaside resorts are doing
- Day visitors are a huge market
- What is there on the seafront for families to do?
- Arun have finally taken Leisure seriously
- The document talks of lack of chain restaurants. However, it has not looked at Chichester, which although not in the Arun District is only 15 minutes away. This has a wide range of various restaurants
- Swimming facilities – why has the possibility of an outdoor paddling pool not been considered. Arundel open air swimming pool is very popular
- Members did not feel that there was an understanding of the demographic of the area, in particular to the issue of the bowling greens
- Visitor attractions – there is a need to widen the area (not just Arun). Chichester audiences should be included
- We need to have attractions that will entice people from Butlins. The Resort brings a huge amount of business to Bognor Regis and there should be more evaluation of this issue. They spend in the shops but we need more attractions in the town to encourage them.
- It was felt that mention should have been made as to the lack of access to the sands across the stones. Ramps are needed to allow the public to get onto the sand more easily, particularly with buggies or wheelchairs
- It was also felt that more benches and picnic tables should be available along the beach / Prom, perhaps on the decking areas
- There was concern about the way the survey had been conducted and it was felt that key questions had not been asked.
- There seem to be some discrepancies on what questions were asked and where they were asked
- The statistics refer to the Wavelength and online surveys but they do not seem to mention the paper surveys that were also completed.
- On the statistics given (Figure 3 results from Wavelength Panel Survey) – I visit the following facilities regularly: There do not seem to be sections for Theatre or Other Facilities and yet these are shown on the next set of stats (Mean scoring)

Comments on Strategy:

Members were pleased to see that the issue of Leisure in the area was being addressed. Having read the Report, Councillors felt that there were many positive suggestions being put forward that would greatly improve the leisure facilities in the town.

Members were supportive of the initiatives to improve cycling and making the cycling routes safer around the area. A question was asked as to whether there was an overall transport plan, and if so did it include cycling provision. Although there are currently cycle paths, in many cases these are not joined up, with cyclists having to join the busy roads around the town. Cycling on the seafront is popular but would need to be developed carefully to protect pedestrians.

The Councillors also supported the concept of an Arts Centre, in or around the train station area. They had earlier heard proposals from Su Cloud being put forward to provide creative spaces in the town and were very impressed with the ideas.

Support was also expressed for the improvements suggested for the Leisure Centre. Comments were made that sharing the facilities with the school did mean that it was sometimes difficult for the public to access the pool when they would wish. It was agreed that the building currently looks tired and needs improving.

Members were extremely pleased that the importance and success of the Regis Centre theatre had been recognised and that a fly tower was being proposed. However, new seating is needed and more multi-purpose space. New investment will help to achieve this.

West Park / Waterloo Square / Swansea Gardens

This part of the Strategy was not supported by the Town Councillors. Having had discussions with a number of people and groups they feel that a great deal of distress will be caused if the bowling greens were moved from Waterloo Square. New greens would take a long time to establish and the existing area is used not just by those taking part but also those who sit and watch and those who just enjoy the area. Also two of the rinks are available for visitors (including visitors to Butlins) to use (which apparently they do) and it was felt that they would not take advantage of this facility if it was moved to West Park. Where would the mini golf go? This is an extremely popular activity and one of the few things for families to do along the Prom area.

It was felt that West Park itself was already well used, as was Swansea Gardens. Also, fitting into West Park all of the things suggested in the document would take up much of the room. Many people would need to use their cars to travel to West Park to use these new facilities and so more car parking space would be needed.

It was felt that events already took place on the seafront area and so to clear the Waterloo Square site was not necessary. Also, West Park is used for some large events and if all of the other activities were to be based there, no space would be available for these events.

The Meeting was re-convened.

Following further discussion it was **AGREED** that the Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services will draft a response from Members comments and circulate for approval.

98. TO CONSIDER THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 'PLANNING FOR CULTURE AND LEISURE PROVISION IN ARUN TO 2028', PRODUCED BY COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL, IN RELATION TO THE ST MODWEN DEVELOPMENT AND POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PICTUREDROME

Cllr. S. Daniells declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item as a Director of the Picturedrome Cinema and left the meeting

Cllr. J. Brooks declared a Personal Interest in this item as a friend of the operator of the Picturedrome Cinema

The Committee **RESOLVED** to adjourn the Meeting to enable Councillors who are not Committee Members to speak on this item.

With regard to the provision of a new miniplex cinema on the Regis Centre site, all Members strongly objected to this. Both Members and other groups were very concerned at this proposal. Partly because it would pose a threat to the Picturedrome but also as it was felt that a miniplex in itself was not the sort of attraction that this site needed. People wanted something with more of a 'wow' factor and this would not come from a miniplex. Families visiting the seafront wanted other things to do. Apart from the mini golf in Waterloo Square there is very little to do apart from the beach. In wet weather there is nowhere for them to go. A miniplex will not draw people from Butlins, as they have their own cinema. We need an attraction that will make people want to come to the site.

A suggestion had been put forward from a member of a local group as to an alternative building on the site and the Town Councillors felt it was vital that more consultation was undertaken on what this hugely important site should contain.

Members welcomed the positive comments made about the Picturedrome and any additional funding that could be found to assist with improving this important local landmark.

The Meeting was re-convened at 9.22pm.

Following further discussion it was **AGREED** that the Head of Street Scene and Leisure Services will draft a response from Members comments and circulate for approval.

99. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON JWAAC AGENDA

Members did not have any new items for inclusion.

100. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee **NOTED** receipt of the correspondence as detailed on the list previously circulated (appended to file copy of the Minutes) including the additional items listed below.

- NALC Communications Briefing – ref the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons
- Southern Railway – Stakeholder Brief
- Southway Primary School – email re opportunity to become an Academy, and associated papers

The Meeting closed at 9.25 pm

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
COMMITTEE MEETING 23RD JANUARY 2012

1. The Greening Campaign - email from Corinne Hitchling re Greening the Green Deal Consultation and invitation to a series of free conferences
2. Portsmouth Water Ltd - letter regarding Help our Saving Water Campaign and Activity Report
3. Parish Online - email version of Parish Online News.
4. Arun District Council - email with poster on Refuse and Recycling Collections over the Christmas period. Posted on BRTC noticeboards
5. Greening West Sussex - email re £30 million for community green schemes and public sector energy efficiency
6. Bognor Regis Meteorological Observations November 2011
7. Greening Campaign – Free Waste Prevention Advisor Course in Chichester, details.
8. ADC – email from Martin Stubbs re the Fire & Rescue Services ‘Test it Tuesday’ campaign. Fire alarms to be tested on Tuesday to encourage people to check their smoke detectors weekly on a Tuesday.
9. Hampshire Flag Company – email re end of season deals
10. Sustainable Business Network – update January 2012
11. JAKK Country Furniture Designs Ltd. - email re repair and renewal of fingerposts other signage and street furniture
12. Smartran Ltd – email re: Effective rewards for healthy activities, volunteers and travel choices in 2012
13. CVS Arunwide – email sent from ADC re Arun Wellbeing Commissioning
14. NALC Communications Briefing – ref the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Beacons
15. Southern Railway – Stakeholder Brief
16. Southway Primary School – email re opportunity to become an Academy, and associated papers