

COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19TH MAY 2010

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Shepherd)
The Vice-chair (Councillor K. Jones)
Councillors Brown, Gay, J.M. Hunt, Legge, Radford, Ranson, Seaton,
Sutherland and Youell.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10th March 2010 were confirmed and signed.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Disclosures of Personal Interest were made as follows:

- (i) by Councillor Shepherd – personal and prejudicial interest, having been a member of Cabinet and present at the meeting when the decision had been taken in item 5 on the agenda – Community Safety Scrutiny;
- (ii) by Councillors Shepherd and Radford – personal interest as members of Leicestershire County Council in item 6 on the agenda - Town Centre Master Plan.

3. DECLARATIONS - THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations of the existence of the Party Whip were made.

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY – FEEDBACK FROM CABINET

A report of the Deputy Director of Programmes and Resources was submitted, which informed the Committee of the outcomes of the Cabinet decisions taken following consideration of a report in respect of Community Safety, submitted by the Committee following its meeting held on 10th March 2010 (item 5 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Shepherd, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item, since he had been a member of Cabinet and present at the meeting when decisions had been taken in respect of Community Safety Scrutiny, left the room during the consideration of the item and took no part in the discussions. The Vice-chair, Councillor K. Jones, took the Chair during the consideration of the item.

RESOLVED

- 1. that monitoring of the work in the Hastings Ward be received within the regular six month Community Safety Scrutiny reports;
- 2. that future reports include the community safety work being undertaken in the Warwick Way area.

Reasons

1. The Committee had been satisfied with the action taken by the Cabinet. However it was important to ensure that the recommendations of the Committee were progressed, with clear outcomes being measured.
2. Officers had introduced similar initiatives in the Warwick Way area, the outcomes of which also required regular scrutiny.

5. TOWN CENTRE MASTER PLAN

A report of the Director of Loughborough Regeneration was submitted, providing an update in respect of the Loughborough Eastern Gateway, the Inner Relief Road and the Baxter Gate Development (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

At the request of the Committee, Councillor Harley, Cabinet Lead Member for external relations attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the item.

The Director of Loughborough Regeneration attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the item.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Cabinet

1. that an urgent request for a site visit at the former hospital site in Baxter Gate be requested with its owners, to carry out an internal inspection of the buildings by 10th July 2010, after which the Council use its powers to gain that access;
2. that a speedy and favourable response for funding for the Inner Relief Road be sought from the Department of Transport;
3. that should there be any significant delay in the commencement of work to the Inner Relief Road, the contractors be requested to be sensitive to the impact of the Olympics 2012 on the area, planning its work in the town centre accordingly;
4. that Leicestershire County Council be pressed to introduce a Residents Preference Parking scheme for the Hastings Ward, regardless of the outcomes of the plans for the Inner Relief Road.

Reasons

1. Action was required in the interests of health and safety and because of the visual effects the deteriorating buildings had on the street scene.
2. The Community and Council require the certainty of the planned Inner Relief Road continuing as a fundamental part of the Town Centre Strategy, without which the entire strategy would need to be reconsidered, putting the creation of a more cohesive and viable town centre at risk.

3. To ensure the appearance of Loughborough be at a premium during a period of the Olympics 2012, when it was expected that there would be an influx of visitors, taking account of the teams being hosted by the University, with no disruption to traffic or pedestrians in the town.
4. To highlight the needs of the local residents to have such a scheme in its area and the effects of the Inner Relief Road in that Ward.

6. RETAIL BUSINESS UPDATE – CHRISTMAS 2009

A report of the Director of Loughborough Regeneration was submitted, setting out what actions had been taken following the Committee's consideration of Retail Business – Christmas 2009 and the subsequent report submitted to the Cabinet, together with further proposals for 2010 (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

At the request of the Committee, Councillor Harley, Cabinet Lead Member for external relations attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the item.

The Director of Loughborough Regeneration attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the item.

RESOLVED

1. that the Director of Leisure and Environment be requested to submit an item to the Events Forum to consider an umbrella payment for Road Closures for events throughout the Borough;
2. that the Director of Leisure and Environment be requested to submit an item to the events Forum to seek further advice in respect of umbrella insurance cover for events across the Borough from the Council's insurers;
3. that the Director of Partnerships and Customer Services be requested to ensure that the Communications Team circulate deadlines for copy in a timely manner.

Reasons

1. Events requiring road closures cost £600 each time a Town or Parish Council made an application, much of which were administrative costs to Leicestershire County Council. Consideration of one annual application could result in less cost to each participating Town and Parish Council.
2. In order that Town and Parish Councils were able to make effective use of its finances.
3. To ensure that all Town and Parish Councils were able to submit information for inclusion in the Borough Council's publicity material.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

A report of the Acting Director of Programmes and Resources, enabling the Committee to consider its work programme, was submitted (item 8 on the agenda files with these minutes).

RESOLVED

1. that the Director of Partnerships and Customer Services advise Members of the Committee directly the progress being made with Prospect Leicestershire, in respect of formulating an identity for Loughborough.
2. that the Scrutiny Commission be informed that the Committee wishes to proceed on the basis of the following work programme, which incorporates decisions taken at the meeting:

ISSUE	MEETING
<p>Great Central Railway – A report of the Director of Loughborough Regeneration to monitor implementation of the recommendations of the Cabinet after an appropriate length of time. Response from Cabinet received 20th January 2010.</p> <p>Invite Representatives from Great Central Railway</p> <p>Invite Cabinet Lead Member</p>	7th July 2010
<p>Events Forum / St George's Day - A report of the Director of Leisure and Environment detailing the work of the Events Forum and specifically review the events to celebrate St George's Day 2010 and plans for 2011.</p> <p>Invite Cabinet Lead Member</p> <p>The Chair, Vice-chair and Councillor Brown consider which outside representatives, with expertise in the area, to invite to assist with the consideration of the item following the meeting.</p>	7th July 2010
<p>Community Safety Scrutiny</p> <p>A report to be received on a six monthly basis. To include information in respect of the Hastings Ward and Warwick Way areas.</p> <p>Invite Cabinet Lead Member</p>	13th October 2010

<p>Loughborough University</p> <p>A report of the Director of Partnerships and Customer Services detailing key partnership working between the Borough Council and one of its Key partners, Loughborough University, its successes and ways to further improve that relationship.</p> <p>Invite Cabinet Lead Member</p> <p>Invite the Vice-Chancellor Shirley Pearce, Will Spinks, or their nominees and a representative of the Students' Union</p>	<p>13th October 2010 (should this date not be convenient to the University defer to 1st December 2010 meeting)</p>
<p>Economic Regeneration - A report of the Director of Regeneration to consider issues relating to the closure of the Astra Zeneca site in Loughborough and the start up units in Sileby.</p> <p>Invite Cabinet Lead Member</p> <p>Invite:</p> <p>A. McInness – Town Centre Partnership P. Fileman – Chamber of Trade Trade Union representative University representative from the business rather than academic background EMDA Federation of Small Businesses Martin Peters – Prospect Leicestershire</p>	<p>1st December 2010 or 12th October 2010 (to fit in with the invitation to the University)</p>
<p>Olympics 2012</p> <p>A report of the Director of Leisure and Environment setting out details for inclusion in publicity material to welcome visitors to the Borough for the Olympics 2012. Including information in respect of places of interest, hotel accommodation and restaurants with a focus on Loughborough, but including other places of interest in the Borough.</p> <p>Invite Cabinet Lead Member</p>	<p>1st December 2010</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity</p> <p>A report of the Director of Leisure and Environment reporting on progress with impact assessments and outputs; to ensure that progress had been made and that demonstrable outputs were being achieved as a result of the impact assessments.</p>	<p>9th March 2011</p>

Invite Cabinet Lead Member	
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Items still to be programmed:

Sustainable Communities Act - to review the position again when the Secretary of State issues a further invitation for proposals to be submitted to the LGA or when the Amendment Bill becomes law, whichever is the sooner.

Regular items:

Community Safety – every six months – last considered 10th March 2010

Reasons

1. To update Members on this matter, following information circulated to them after its meeting held on 2nd December 2009.
2. To assist the Scrutiny Commission in respect of its role of managing scrutiny work programmes across Committees and to enable planning for future meetings of the Committee, reports to be prepared and attendances to be arranged.

NOTE:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at Council on 28th June 2010, unless notice to that effect is given to the Head of Democratic Services by five members of the Council no later than five days following the publication of the minutes in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2(f).
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 7th July 2010.