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25 October 2019

To: **MEMBERS OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT KEY AREA GROUP, BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL**

A **MEETING** of the **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT KEY AREA GROUP** will be held in the Council Chamber on **8 November 2019** at **19.00 hours**, when your attendance is required.

Steve Cridland
Chief Executive Officer

****PLEASE NOTE THE START TIME OF THE MEETING****

Filming, recording of Council meetings and use of social media:

During this meeting members of the public may film or record the Committee and officers from the public area only providing it does not disrupt the meeting. The Confidential section of the meeting may not be filmed or recorded.

If a member of the public objects to being recorded, the person(s) filming must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking.

The use of social media is permitted but members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public are invited to put questions or to draw relevant matters to the Council's attention. Each member of the public is allowed to speak once only in respect of a business item on the agenda (whether in the Open Forum or during the meeting) and shall not speak for more than three minutes at the discretion of the

Chairman.

If it appears that the number of speakers is likely to unreasonably delay the disposal of business items on the agenda the Chairman may direct that a member of the public submits a question or comment in writing which shall be answered in due course.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **SUBSTITUTES**

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In respect of any matter on the agenda.

5. **NOTES OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING**

Notes of the meeting held on 2 September 2019.

6. **BRIDGE THE GAP**

A well-attended meeting was held on 13 September the minutes of which are attached as Appendix 1. A second letter has been handed out to all businesses inviting them to set up a forum which would meet every two months with the following terms of reference:

- 1) to organise activities in BH Town Centre to encourage greater footfall during the reconstruction of the Martlets by New River REIT (examples were given at the meeting in the 'Dare to Dream' document;
- 2) to advise the Town Council of actions that are required to protect and support existing traders within the town centre;
- 3) to select two members to represent these views to a Bridge-the-Gap steering group consisting of a senior manager from NRR, Market Place, WSCC, MSDC, BHTC and two Councillors, all mandated to keep the economy of the centre alive and vibrant.

For Noting

7. **CULTURAL QUARTER UPDATE**

The Notes of the group to be held on 4 November 2019 will be distributed prior to the meeting for consideration. The KAG is asked to consider the expenditure for an analysis of the project and future costs.

Recommended:

That the notes of the Cultural Quarter Working Group dated 4 November 2019 be noted and the recommendations considered.

8. **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT KAG BACKGROUND PAPER**

Some amendments have been made to the background paper previously distributed to members. The amended version is attached as Appendix 2

For Noting

9. **RECOGNITION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCIES**

The KAG appointed a small working committee to sit and identify issues which the Town Council could take on. The minutes of the first meeting are attached as Appendix 3.

For Noting

10. **LICENCING OF TABLES AND CHAIRS ON THE HIGHWAY**

10.1 The Council resolved as follows at its September 2019 meeting:

That the decision by WSCC to charge businesses a licence fee of £500 to place tables and chairs on the pavement outside their business be opposed on the grounds that it was exorbitant, unnecessary and would have a detrimental effect on especially smaller businesses while destroying the cafe ambience created by people enjoying open air dining.

10.2 A response has been received which is attached as Appendix 4.

For consideration

11. **FREE SATURDAY BUS SERVICE**

11.1 One of the suggestions made with the Dare to Dream project was to introduce a free bus service on a Saturday to encourage residents to come to town. Compass Bus runs a circular service (35A and 35C). This service runs half hourly alternating the direction. Compass has suggested that a free service would be possible but they would need to be compensated for this. They have mentioned a sum of £250 per Saturday which equates to £13,000 per year. Approximately 150 customers use the service each Saturday of which half are pensioners and are subsidised anyway. The subsidy per passenger is therefore £3.33.

11.2 An alternative suggestion is to run the service free during the month of December or to trial it for a six month period to see whether usage increases. A further alternative is to introduce a Sunday Service which would cost approximately £300 per day. However the provider did make the point that the reason why there is no service is because it was not supported.

11.3 No funding has been budgeted for a project of this nature and the Group is asked to consider whether expenditure of this nature might be better used on events in the town centre.

For consideration

12. **MID SUSSEX MARATHON**

- 12.1 The Mid Sussex Marathon has been run at each of the three towns over the bank holiday weekend of May since 2012. Places for Pleasure organise the event and feel that it has now plateaued. For it to go forward will need some thought and they have come up with a proposal for the Council to consider (Appendix 5)
- 12.2 It appears that two major sponsors have been found and the organisers now want more commitment from each of the three towns in the form of a £2000 per annum contribution. This is to contribute towards a marketing fund.
- 12.3 It is suggested that this matter be considered but before making a final decision it be considered by the Mid Sussex Association of Town Councils later this month and then by the Town Council at its meeting on 25 November.

For consideration