

**NOTES of the STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT KEY AREA GROUP MEETING** held in the Council Chamber on **FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2019 at 19.00 hours.**

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**Present:** Roger Cartwright Chairman  
Andrew Barrett-Miles Vice Chairman  
Graham Allen  
Joseph Foster  
Kathleen Willis  
Robert Duggan

**Also Present:** Robert Eggleston  
Janice Henwood  
Ann Eves  
Sylvia Neumann  
Tofojjul Hussain  
Peter Chapman

*\*denotes non attendance*

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(19.05 hours)

22. **OPEN FORUM**

There were no members of the public present

23. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Nil

24. **SUBSTITUTES**

Nil

25. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

26. **BRIDGE THE GAP**

The chairman summarised the project to date saying that a meeting of traders had taken place and their ideas taken on board. He had been meeting with some of the traders to see how their ideas might be implemented. BH Radio has taken on the bandstand project and a live band will appear on 16 December. It is hoped that this might happen every weekend until Christmas. Mercantile Adventurers have implemented a market and The Market Place is investigating a market for Church Walk. The SMILE project which is based on Facebook is being initiated by two traders. There is a call for more information

on the development though this is often confidential.

Cllr Eggleston is putting together a Group of Nine which will include two traders, representatives from NRR, Market Place, MSDC and WSCC. A meeting will be sought with the relevant cabinet member of MSDC as their initial response was not positive as they feel it should be a local initiative. MSDC has an interest in ensuring parking levels remain and if the town fails they will lose this source of income.

There are still funds in the town centre partnership account which could be used for this initiative.

It was suggested that a job description for a town manager be drawn up.

The meeting noted the report.

## 27. **CULTURAL QUARTER UPDATE**

The Notes (commercial in confidence) of the Cultural Quarter Steering Group were sent to the group. Terms of reference for fund raising will be discussed at a later meeting. It was felt that other councils should be approached to see how they dealt with fundraising and any conflict of interests which may occur as a result.

It was agreed that a financial business plan for the Beehive should be drawn up and advice sought on the amount of subsidy the centre may require. Nick Dodds who has previously done work for the Council was recommended. It was further agreed that the Finance KAG will look more closely at the financing of this project.

It was noted that the constitution of the CIO was approved. This was ratified.

The following resolutions were made:

### **RESOLVED:**

#### 1. Fundraising

That funding made via section 106 is acceptable but funding in advance of a planning application or which could be construed as an influence on planning should not be accepted.

#### 2. Registration of CIO

That the constitution be accepted with the inclusion of "other uses by the community" under objects and that the CIO be registered.

#### 3. Business Plan

That Nick Dodds and his colleague John Mortlock be appointed to produce a business plan for the Beehive and to provide advice on the amount of subsidy which would be needed to run the venue.

**28. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT KAG BACKGROUND PAPER**

The Deputy CEO from MSDC had commented on the original paper that had been considered by the Council. Her comments had been incorporated into an amended paper.

**RESOLVED:**

That the amended background paper be accepted.

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

The subcommittee had met and released its findings. The possibility of photovoltaic panels for the roof of the council offices was being investigated. It was suggested that the cost to place panels on the roof could be spread over a few years. The new building by NRR could, however, shade the roof of the council. Sidney West could also be looked at for photovoltaic panels.

The possibility of having an electric car charging point in the car park of the council offices had been investigated and found not to be viable. It was noted that WSCC has grants for charging points for electric cars and that they are looking at installing points in all council car parks.

A supplier named YES which is part of Robin Hood which is a WSCC initiative should be looked at to see whether they would provide a cheaper supply of electricity. Renewable providers should be preferred.

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

The response to the letter objecting to the licensing of chairs and tables on the pavement was noted and the Council agreed to continue to oppose this. It would form part of the upcoming MSATC agenda. The matter had still to be finalised by WSCC.

**31. FREE SATURDAY BUS SERVICE**

It was felt that most people had a bus pass and that this initiative would not attract many to the town centre. It was felt that if funds were available they could be better used to fund attractions to draw people into the centre of town.

**32. MID SUSSEX MARATHON**

The original purpose of the marathon was to encourage local people to keep fit. That focus has been lost and it is now becoming a larger initiative. The idea of greater marketing would have no benefit to the local population and could be complicating the event. It was felt that it was working well at the moment. It was the responsibility of MSDC to look after the health and wellbeing of its residents. The request for a subsidy of £2000 was therefore not supported.

The meeting ended at 19.55