

NOTES of the **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT KEY AREA GROUP MEETING** held in the Council Chamber on **Wednesday 29 April 2020 at 18.00 hours.**

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
Peter Chapman
Matthew Cornish
Sylvia Neumann
Emma Coe-Gunnell White
Lee Gibbs
Simon Hicks
Tofojjul Hussain

**denotes non attendance*

(18:00 hours)

51. **OPEN FORUM**

52. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Robert Duggan

53. **SUBSTITUTES**

Sylvia Neumann for Robert Duggan

54. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Peter Chapman declared a possible interest in item 10 as he is a volunteer at the Burgess Hill Football Club.

Robert Eggleston stated that in terms of item 12 he did not have a pecuniary interest as did not engage in any theatre type activity for personal profit or gain. He also had no personal interest and Snowdrop Music had ceased operating. He would leave the meeting when this item was discussed.

55. **NOTES OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT KAG MEETING**

The Notes of the meeting of the Strategic Development Key Area Group held on 19 February 2020, having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

56. **ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

It was felt that the list of possible properties was too long and would not be taken seriously. The façade of the Orion theatre is already included in the Neighbourhood plan. The Old Post Office is dilapidated and the pubs on the list should be removed. The Theatre club could be considered for preservation.

The list was merely put together as suggestions. The main protection which a CVA provides is to impose a six month moratorium before the property can be developed to give interested groups the chance to purchase it. It was suggested that items in the public realm should be considered. The council should think carefully before applying.

It was pointed out that there are probably no pubs in the Northern Arc and therefore consideration should be given to preserving the Victorian pubs in town.

Principles need to be established and a working group convened to consider this and engage with the public. The Orion is owned by MSDC and has a heritage value. There may be pressures put on Councils as a result of Covid-19 as they may be cash strapped at the end of the crisis. It may be difficult to justify all the pubs in Burgess Hill being put on a list of CVAs.

RESOLVED:

1. That a working group consisting of Cllrs Henwood, Barrett-Miles, Neumann, and Eggleston be formed to establish criteria for applying for buildings of Community Value status and that the criteria be applied to buildings in Burgess Hill
2. That the working group co-opt members of the public with suitable expertise to assist
3. That the group report back to the Committee in due course

57. **OPEN MARKET**

A meeting with the National Market Traders Federation showed that there was every possibility that a monthly market consisting of between 15 to 20 stalls could be established in Church Walk.

There was good support from those present to establish a market. It would encourage greater footfall in the town centre. A working group should be formed to run the project. With the following objectives:

1. To establish a monthly open market on Church Walk on a day to be identified and the necessary permissions be obtained from WSCC and MSDC and that insurance cover be added to the Council's insurance policy

2. To use social media and any other resource including the National Market Traders Federation to identify and attract traders.
3. To consider fees to be charged to traders including start up incentives.
4. To consider the use of BHTC staff to establish the market and consideration be given later to alternative management.
5. To consideration what type of goods could be traded and what not as well as themes.

The Bridge the Gap budget would cover any costs incurred, however the idea was that the market should not need to be subsidised and that any profit would be used to promote Bridge the Gap.

Depending on the pandemic, it was hoped that the market may be up and running by September.

RESOLVED:

That a Market Working Group under the chairmanship of Cllr Cornish be established to include Cllrs Eves, Foster, Coe-GunnellWhite and Eggleston to take the concept of an Open Market forward.

58. TRADING SPACES

It was felt that the regeneration of the town centre would probably be delayed as a result of the pandemic. The Town Council has an obligation to try and restore some trading vitality to the town centre to make it sustainable. There will be a difficult trading time ahead. Similar projects have been established in Newhaven (Flexispace) and Wellington Town Council has a scheme to incubate new traders.

This is a way to support and kick start the local economy and replace what has been lost. The town will die if something is not done. The Council needs to be bold and take courageous steps if the town is not to lie idle

Concern was expressed that the Council is embarking upon something it does not fully understand nor have the resources for. More work is needed as at present the idea is just theoretical. A high level working group is needed.

It was pointed out that the Council would not be establishing businesses, only providing space for them to establish themselves. The Council will facilitate the environment.

RESOLVED:

That a working party consisting of Cllrs Eggleston, Cartwright, Henwood and Foster and with officer support be established to further develop **Trading Spaces** as a concept

59. COVID-19: EFFECT ON CLUBS

The Burgess Hill Football Club has raised concerns about the effect of the Covid-19 lockdown on its activities and income. As it can no longer hold

events or run the bar, the club has been negatively affected in terms of income. Routine maintenance still needs to be carried out. In addition its rent has to be paid and a rent holiday has not been granted to clubs though some have been provided with a grant. Various other grant sources such as the Lottery and local Police were suggested as sources of grants.

RESOLVED:

That sports clubs be added to the list of organisations which councillors will contact to establish what the effects of Covid-19 have had on their operations.

60. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF CULTURAL QUARTER STEERING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Eggleston has stood down as chairman of this committee. Nominations were called for and Cllr Foster was nominated

Cllr Barrett-Miles left the meeting at 19.17 having given his support for the appointment of Cllr Foster.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Foster be appointed as Chairman of the Cultural Quarter Steering Committee

Cllr Eggleston left the meeting at 19.19

61. CONSULTATION ON THE BEEHIVE

Public consultation on the Beehive and funding possibilities was due to commence in May. However lockdown and the economic situation have meant that this time frame is no longer possible. It was suggested that the project be delayed until circumstances permit hopefully in August. A public statement to this effect should be released.

RESOLVED:

That the Beehive project be suspended until circumstances permit

The meeting ended at 19.26