



NOTES of the **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT KEY AREA GROUP MEETING** held in the Council Chamber on **TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 19.00 hours.**

Present: Roger Cartwright (19.20) Chairman
Andrew Barrett-Miles Vice Chairman
Graham Allen*
Joseph Foster*
Kathleen Willis*
Robert Duggan

Also Present: Robert Eggleston
Janice Henwood

**denotes non attendance*

(19.05 hours)

Robert Eggleston took the Chair

9. **OPEN FORUM**

Three members of the public attended, two being from the Theobalds Residents Association. Both felt that the moving of the boundary as suggested under item 7 was good idea and one which the residents would support. It makes sense for this area to fall under Mid Sussex as they provide most of the services to the area. There is nothing to justify Burgess Hill supporting these residents for no payment. It was noted that funding from these residents was used for example in East Sussex schools rather than the Burgess Hill schools which residents children mostly attended. MSDC is in constant contact with Lewes District Council.

10. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Joe Foster, Graham Allen

11. **SUBSTITUTES**

Robert Eggleston for Joe Foster
Janice Henwood for Kathleen Willis

12. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Andrew Barrett-Miles stated that as a County Councillor he may have a conflict of interest but could not identify any at this stage of the meeting.

13. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Andrew Barrett- Miles was nominated and all present supported the appointment.

Andrew Barrett-Miles took over the Chair

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

The Notes of the meeting held on 2 July 2019 were approved. The Background paper discussed at the previous meeting was further discussed and Roger Cartwright offered to rewrite the paper incorporating comments received from the Deputy CEO of MSDC, Ms Judy Holmes. It was pointed out that the corrections needed were brought up and minuted at the previous Council meeting.

Robert Eggleston did not entirely agree with what the MSDC said. Firstly the number of houses stated would depend on when the starting point was. MSDC felt we had over quoted the number Burgess Hill would be taking on. The planning process started many years ago. Secondly the issue of CIL and whether it is preferable to section 106 is a matter for debate. The Council was always led to believe CIL was a better option as the Council would receive 25% of the funding to do with as they felt best.

Thirdly while section 106 monies are being received, there is little or no money being spent on the older part of the town which is what was hoped would happen.

Roger Cartwright took over the Chair.

15. **BRIDGE THE GAP**

The Terms of Reference were accepted.

It was agreed that item 8 on the agenda would be discussed at this point. The theme of the project and the Dare to Dream initiative was to attract more people into town. The paper was a collection of ideas which could be put in place to stimulate footfall. The group should be run by traders with town council support.

Representation on the Bridge the Gap subcommittee should include 2 independent traders, New River, Market Place, 2 Councillors, officers from MSDC (initially the cabinet member Cllr Steve Hillier) WSCC and an officer from the Council.

An invitation to all traders would be sent out with the Dare to Dream ideas to a meeting at which the project could be discussed.

16. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The land destined for the Northern Arc as well as land along Valebridge road which is being developed, falls outside the boundaries of Burgess Hill. The residents of these areas will or do make use of Burgess Hill facilities while no council tax is received by Burgess Hill. It is felt that this should be addressed

and that steps be taken to alter the boundaries. It was pointed out that parts of Hurstpierpoint should also be included in Burgess Hill. A map of these areas will need to be obtained and new boundaries identified. Areas of Wivelsfield, Ansty and Hurstpierpoint have more in common with Burgess Hill than these towns. Where there are no residences the District Council can alter the boundary but where there are residences the Boundary Commission would need to be approached. 7.5% of the population would need to sign a petition for each proposed change. This it was felt is not a large task. Maps would be sourced. Some 2300 names would be needed for each petition. The project would need to be given coverage using the various forms of media available.

RECOMMENDED:

1. Identify and map the specific areas that should form the basis of the community governance reviews
2. confirm the minimum number of signatures required for a community governance petition (7.5% of the electors)
3. confirm the wording required on the community governance petition
4. Initiate 2 community governance petitions (1 each for the Northern Arc and the land and houses off Valebridge Road)
5. The collection of signatures for each community governance petition be presented to Mid Sussex District Council and Lewes District Council (as appropriate) by 31st October 2019.

17. CULTURAL QUARTER UPDATE

The report was noted. The intention is for the building to be owned by the Council but managed by a CIO with members of the community forming the majority. Council would, however, be represented on the CIO. The constitution is being drawn up. Care will be taken to address the VAT aspect to ensure a favourable outcome. The fundraiser had received some pledges and an extension for the £3million loan had been applied for. Roger Cartwright felt that criteria need to be drawn up before the Council proceeds to the next step to ensure that the building was affordable and viable. The success of the fundraiser will determine the future though it may be possible to increase the loan or go to the public to reconsider its stance on funding a smaller building. Careful budgeting would be required.

18. DARE TO DREAM

This was discussed under item 15

19. RECOGNITION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCIES

It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to address this matter.

Matthew Cornish volunteered to chair the group and Janice Henwood agreed to sit on the subcommittee. It was suggested that Emma Coe-Gunnell- White be invited to join to ensure a multi-party representation.. The project would need to be scoped and actions identified that were within the control of the Town Council.

CONFIDENTIAL

20. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was proposed that, in the public interest, the public and press be excluded and they be requested to withdraw from the meeting.

This was agreed and the members of the public left

The meeting ended at 20.50

11. **MEMBERSHIP OF CULTURAL QUARTER COMMITTEE**

To consider applications from volunteers to join the committee.