



**NOTES** of the **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT KEY AREA GROUP MEETING** held in the Council Chamber on **11 January 2024 at 19.00 hours**.

---

**Present:** Peter Williams Chairman  
Cedric de Souza\*  
David Eggleton  
John Orchard  
Matthew Cornish  
Janice Henwood  
Robert Eggleston

**Also Present:** Anne Eves  
Tofojjul Hussain  
Chris Cherry  
Brenda Williams  
Richard Cherry

*\*denotes non attendance*

---

17. **OPEN FORUM**

2 members of public attended. One commented that he did not feel that the contents of the agenda merited the attention of the Strategic and Development KAG as the items were not of a strategic nature. He felt that there was a lack of forward planning and the council should be looking at the real issues affecting the town such as a doctor's surgery, centre of town etc. The group should be looking at how to develop the town.

18. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cedric de Souza

19. **SUBSTITUTES**

Chris Cherry substituted for Cedric de Souza

20. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Cherry, Orchard and Cornish are members of the Park Centre CIO.

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

The Notes of the meeting of the Strategic Development Key Area Group held on 24 August 2023, having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** with one alteration under the first item that 30 be altered to 90 days rolling notice and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

22. **PARK CENTRE UPDATE**

The chairman informed the group that a quote had just been received from Woodmans which still reflected demolition at £17,670 which is not what was asked for. A scope of works for the survey had been provided. Other firms will now be approached.

The chairman reported that a steel RSJ (girder) was supported by 2 wooden pillars. It was necessary to explore the state of the pillars and whether they were imbedded in the foundation or not. This would require the removal of cladding. This method of support would never meet building regulations past or present.

Roof trusses would also need investigation as it appeared that some had been removed. This could cause the roof to be unstable. An inspection at a high level behind the stage was needed to identify work which may be needed.

Careful dismantling was required rather than demolition. It would be a dereliction of duty to allow people to use the facility without a proper inspection and remedial work.

Concern was expressed that the building had been allowed to fall into this condition and it was asked whether any money could be recovered from WSCC. It was pointed out that the St Johns Institute Charity rather than WSCC would need to be approached for any monies and this was unlikely to be successful. WSCC had previously indicated that they may be willing to fund £30,000.

A proper schedule of works is required before a contractor can be appointed to carry out any repairs.

**FOR NOTING**

23. **RBL SITE: URBAN GARDEN**

As it has not been possible to gain a reasoned response from South East Water regarding the reconnection of the water supply and the fact that planning permission and proper drawings are now required, thereby substantially increasing costs, it is

## **RECOMMENDED:**

1. That the original plan for the community garden be withdrawn.
2. That the matter be reconsidered at a future date if appropriate

### 24. **STATION ROAD SURVEY**

The chairman noted that this project had been an important development in the town and was therefore very much an item for the KAG. The survey had been carried out as if through the eyes of a member of public rather than as a professional engineer. The main remaining issues are primarily to do with signage and drainage . It was pointed out that the contract did not address flooding apart from properties in Queens Crescent. The project is compliant but not necessarily well designed. It was pointed out that crossings are sometimes subject to pooling. WSCC commended the authors of the report (Cllrs Orchard and Peter Williams) who were thanked for their work and an excellent report.

This brings inspections to an end though WSCC will be advised of problems in the future if they are not addressed. Cllr Henwood asked that BHTC continue to monitor any remedial works.

Cllr Eves mentioned that there was pooling at a crossing in Leylands Road as well.

## **FOR NOTING**

### 25. **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES**

Following the success of the solar powered SID installed along Sussex Way, it was suggested that up to four similar devices be placed along roads in Burgess Hill provided sufficient Section 106 funds are available to purchase them.

## **RECOMMENDED**

That provided section 106 funds are available, additional solar powered Speed Indicator Devices be purchased (4 maximum) and placed in semi-permanent positions in order of preference along:

- London Road,
- Folders Lane,
- Valebridge Road
- Janes Lane.

The meeting ended at 19.55