



BIDDULPH PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

Notes of Extraordinary Meeting held on 13 February 2008

	Introductions	The Chair welcomed Bob Keys and John Liggins from Sainsburys and Stuart Buckley and Paul Chatwin from AWM	
	Present	<p><u>Voting members</u> Charlotte Atkins MP Cllr Madelaine Lovatt (SCC) <i>Vice Chair</i> Cllr Andrew Hart (SMDC) Cllr Gerald Adams (BTC) Cllr Kevin Jackson (BTC) <i>Chairman</i> Cllr Hilda Sheldon MBE (Biddulph in Bloom)</p> <p><u>Officers:</u> Kate Thacker (BTC) Sarah Humphreys (SMDC) David Murrell (SMDC) Ian Jackson (SMDC) Ruth Reeves (SMDC) Perry Wardle (SMDC) Will Spencer (SCC)</p>	
1	Apologies	Cllr Christina Jebb (SCC) Cllr Sybil Ralphs (SMDC) Diane Casewell (Voluntary Sector) Jill Norman (SMCVS) Rev Dr John Peal (N/Forum) Kim Corbishley (Biddulph Business Chamber) Nigel Yates (Bus/Town Centre Devel Group) Gail Edwards (SCC) Mark Trillo (SMDC) Sylvia Rushton (BERA)	
2	Notes of last meeting	To be approved at next meeting.	
3	Declarations of Interest	Councillor Sheldon declared a private & prejudicial interest in Item 4, as a business owner in the town centre.	

4	<p>Sainsburys Update - Bob Keys and John Liggins</p>	<p>JL - here to inform and update. Illustrations circulated showing proposed layout of the site & the layout of the store was described. The car park would be the lower level, with a café at first floor level overlooking the town centre. A meeting with planning officers was to be held in the near future to look in detail at the scheme. It was proposed that the Millennium Garden, open space, the Royal Oak and Brammer's Shoes would not be changed. Car parking would come underneath the store and there would be a more pedestrian friendly area in Wharf Road. Also, the bus hub would be sited at this point, at the entrance to the travelator. Shops would be along the High Street frontage and adjacent to the bus hub, to re-accommodate displaced business and to attract new occupiers. The plan showed an office and residential block at the south west end of the site. The detail was to be refined much more in the coming weeks, in order that the public would see a more worked up version at the consultation (28 February to 1 March).</p> <p>BK explained the pre- and post-application consultation process. There were two opportunities for public input. The exhibition would be manned by experts and, immediately prior to this, a newsletter would be published for residents and businesses with a free phone line and also freepost for those wishing to write in. information would also be posted onto the District Council website. The exhibition would mark the start of the pre-application consultation process of 6-8 weeks. Comments would be assessed and possibly incorporated into the plan. The planning application would be submitted mid-May to mid-June and the final design would be brought back to Biddulph to be left for public viewing. Applications are usually determined in 13 - 16 weeks. The legacy from previous developments is that Sainsbury's work very closely with the community throughout the construction process and will form a strong working relationship with the town. Once the development is completed, the manager and team will work to further this role.</p> <p>The Chair asked whether the consultation dates fitted in with publication of the Moorlands Messenger - DM replied that it was a bit late for the exhibition, but that detail of the scheme and exhibition would be on the website and the scheme details would certainly be in the Messenger.</p>	
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5	<p>AWM - overview and update from Stuart Buckley and Paul Chatwin</p>	<p>The Chair introduced Stuart and Paul - prior to a more detailed discussion at the next meeting, they had been information gathering. CA requested that someone be brought along to that meeting to discuss the Victoria Business Park and the Chair said that concerns had been raised with senior AWM officers re the slowness of the marketing of the site. CA suggested that his be</p>	

		<p>a standing item on the agenda. AH replied that he was satisfied with the work that had been done during this administration and was reassured that companies from the Cheshire area were now showing interest. PC said that he would talk to fellow officers at AWM and bring information back to the next meeting.</p> <p>HS pointed out how difficult it was for a small charity, such as Biddulph in Bloom, to apply for grants due to the complexity of the application forms. PC said that the forms had been revised and that they were looking to cascade smaller amounts of funding down to the MTP. The Chair agreed that some aspects of the application process were overly bureaucratic and PC said that he would feed this back.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Stuart and Paul for attending the meeting and hoped that the visit to Biddulph had been productive. PC said that the agency was looking to spend in the rest of Staffordshire rather than Stoke on Trent. SB thanked the District Council officers for spending the day in giving them information and for the invitation to attend the meeting.</p>	
6	Membership - Chair	<p>The Chair had received a letter from Charlotte Atkins MP to request that David Proudlove represent her at Executive meetings as attendance on Thursday evenings was not possible due to commitments in London. The Chair asked voting members to consider this request. CA added that she had made the request for DP to attend and report back to her - he was an expert in regeneration.</p> <p>AH said that he could not support this request as there was a principle that substitutes were not permitted and said that this could set a precedent.</p> <p>ML proposed that the meetings were changed to 2 pm on Fridays and this was seconded by HS. A vote was taken and all were in favour of future meetings being held at 2pm on Fridays. (Amended dates below.)</p>	
7	Work Plan - Perry Wardle	<p>The Chair spoke of the importance of being really focused for the next 12 months - we do not want to be in the position of Stoke and have to send unspent money back.</p> <p>PW said that there was a long list of projects and spoke of the frustration of getting secondary approval for money - the Town and District Councils. It was important to get a programme approved by these bodies to avoid this situation in future. We need to create a Market Towns Programme exit strategy and to plan</p>	

		<p>Market Towns Programme exit strategy and to plan beyond it. PW said that he, IJ and RR would put a report together to bring to the next meeting.</p> <p>The Chair said that the elected members would also like to put markers down on what they would like to see. He spoke of the larger mill buildings, which were too large for MTP funding. These could be suitable for live/work units and the Community Development Trust. PW said that AWM would move away from the present method of working to a project-by-project approach.</p> <p>HS said that we must not forget the gateways to the town and the renewed street lighting.</p> <p>PW said that the Executive would need to prioritise as there were already 11 projects and the amount of funding was limited. Concern was expressed regarding projects that were not able to be delivered. This body should be more strategic.</p>	PW/ IJ/ RR
8	Other Business	<p>a) AH expressed concern that the agenda had been given out at the meeting. The Chair said that this meeting was out of sequence and arranged quite quickly.</p> <p>b) AH reported that the District Council Cabinet had voted in favour of the £60k towards the High Street works, but said that he was not happy with the way in which this had been handled by the County Council, having had only 2 weeks notice of the shortfall. The Chair pointed out that the alternative was not to have had some of the work done and said that the District Council needed to spend some of the £500k it had set aside for regeneration work, as did the Town Council. KT said that the Town Council had expected its contribution to go into a central pot by now, to be spent by the Executive. The Chair felt that this body should have authority to spend set aside money as it thought fit.</p>	
9	Date of next meeting	<p>28 February 2008 - at 5.30pm</p> <p>Other dates for 2008: 11 April; 23 May; 4 July; 5 September; 17 October; 28 November</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 6.55 pm</p>	