



BIDDULPH PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

Notes of Meeting held on 24th October 2008

	Empty Property Update	This update was for District Councillors only	
	Introductions	The Chair welcomed those present	
	Present	<p><u>Voting members</u> Cllr Gerald Adams (BTC) Charlotte Atkins MP Diane Casewell (Voluntary Sector) Kim Corbishley (BBC) Cllr Christina Jebb (SCC) Cllr Madelaine Lovatt (SCC) <i>Vice Chair</i> Cllr Andrew Hart (SMDC) Cllr Kevin Jackson (BTC) <i>Chairman</i> Sylvia Rushton (BERA) Anthony Worthington (N/Forum)</p> <p><u>Officers:</u> Mark Forrester (SMDC) Steve Holsgrove (SCC) Andy Mason (SCC) Will Spencer (SCC) Kate Thacker (BTC) Ruth Reeves (SMDC) Michelle Wallace (SMDC)</p> <p><u>Also in attendance:</u> David Proudlove (BTC/Quinquinity)</p>	
1	Apologies	Jill Norman (SMCVS) Mark Trillo (SMDC) Perry Wardle (SMDC) Cllr Sybil Ralphs (SMDC)	
2	Notes of last meeting	Approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 4 th July 2008 - ok <u>Matters Arising</u> a add Sylvia Rushton's apologies	

		<p>b</p> <p>CA concerned that Victoria Business Park yet again not on agenda and would like as standing item with regular updates. Chair - suggest that this could be taken as a regular confidential pre-meeting with District Councillors. This Forum about more than physical regeneration of town centre and the VBP is the only major employment site in town. Had asked about design of new building on A527. AH would talk to senior management group re this and come back with information.</p> <p>ML also asked for a general update for all members as well as a confidential update. Members needed this information - a new building had gone up and we did not have any information.</p>	<p>AH</p>
3	<p>Declarations of Interest</p>	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None were declared at the beginning: during discussion AH declared a personal interest as Portfolio Holder for Regeneration on Item 5; Quinquinity</p>	
4	<p>Highways</p>	<p><u>Highways</u></p> <p>Chair - welcome back to Andy Mason. Steve Holsgrove - was attending to pick up elements dealt with during AM's absence.</p> <p>Had held several meetings largely to deal with items raised by Business Chamber. Have held road safety audit but have not actioned points raised to date to allow Regeneration Executive to consider partial/full pedestrianisation of town centre.</p> <p>1. would like consideration of this group as guide - would like to discuss Safety Audit first of all, and this was looked at in detail:</p> <p>Chair felt it was an interesting report.</p> <p>Location 2.1 - approved</p> <p>Location 2.5 - build out (badge holders causing traffic obstruction- could be prevented from parking by traffic orders). Buses still causing obstruction. ML could do with more details of obstructions. SH confirmed that this was down as a temporary bus stop. KC said that shops here had constant deliveries all day long. SH said that for Phase II - High Street - all vehicles would be restricted and there would be timed</p>	

		<p>deliveries. KJ asked if we could make designated areas totally no parking - could County Council look at this again? SH emphasised that County officers did need a clear steer on this. KC felt the buses should be taken away from High Street. Buses were there to take customers out of the town to other shopping areas. AM said that all discussions with bus companies were that High Street bus stop was only there until Phase II complete. Steer is: stay as we are/move bus stop to somewhere else/ban parking (inc delivery) opposite the bus stop. Chair could not think of any other place for a bus stop - any ideas? AH said that banning parking would make it very difficult for businesses. AM - the current proposal for Phase II is bus-only lane in that section of High Street and this would not allow for loading/unloading. ML asked that any decision on buses be deferred for today. This was Agreed.</p> <p>Location 2.6 would mean loss of 1 parking bay, but this was felt to be less controversial. AH said that regarding the LIFT project - a site at Cross Street was proposed on Monday - this would have effect on traffic movement, but would not be adversely affected by build out.</p> <p>Location 2.7 - approve.</p> <p>Location 2.8 - approve. The Town Council would like to bring lighting improvements forwards.</p> <p>Location 2.9 - no specific disabled parking SH said this was provisional at present. Felt possible sites on Station Road to between pub/shoe shop. AH said we needed a way to keep very large HGV's from trying to access town centre via Cross Street/Station Road. SH was arranging for signage to say unsuitable for HGV's. The Chair said that there were one or two issues to talk through with Business Chamber.</p>	
5	Quinquinity: Dave Proudlove	<u>Quinquinity</u> An update on the progress of the Biddulph Community Development Trust was given. DP was invited to address	

		<p>meeting - done all work on this in own time and had been thanked by TC for this.</p> <p>The project would serve whole of Biddulph. The Aim was to see the economic, social, physical and environmental regeneration of Biddulph through the provision of services and facilities, assisting in the provision of services and facilities and working in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors and the local community. DP spoke of the suggested objects within the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association and developing Core Business Themes: a) environment & quality of life, b) sustainable economic growth, and c) housing and well-being.</p> <p>The most important stage now was to develop an asset base to ensure sustainable growth. The organisation would not move forwards unless it crossed the line of acquiring an asset base.</p> <p>DP said that he would like a steer as to the level of support there was and said that the Town Hall would make an ideal asset for the Trust.</p> <p>Chair asked members for views. Essential 1st step was to acquire that asset base - the DC/CC are the main owners of land/buildings in the town.</p> <p>AH declared an interest as Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Housing & Tourism and would not be able to vote on this at this Forum. The Town Council did ask for an appraisal from Regeneration Dept and this would be circulated before next the TC meeting.</p> <p>DP said that the CDT needed to get itself known locally and requested inclusion in any publicity.</p> <p>Mark Forrester said the forum needed to be careful to declare the amount of support it wished to give the DT from the outset.</p> <p>DP would like to get community buy-in on this and the Chair asked DP to contact DC communications department to draft something to go out.</p>	<p>C Filer</p> <p>DP</p>
6	<p>Market Towns Programme - Michelle Wallace</p>	<p>MW reported on the MTP and asked for questions</p> <p>Need to do evaluation of Programme by end March 09 and she would be organising this. £6k was set aside and quotes requested from consultancies which may be asking group members opinions</p> <p>AWM stated that the £120k not spent will be ring-fenced and set aside. Are looking to spend some of this on redundant commercial properties in the High Street to bring back into use. AWM also said it was adding</p>	

		<p>£20k to bring total to £200k - there may be more through Redundant Buildings Grant Scheme in future. Property owners had been contacted and interest shown.</p> <p>AH said that the relationship between AWM/DC had never been as good and this was now benefiting us - was happy with interactive progress.</p> <p>KJ - pleased that new money to move forwards with, but each proposal depended on co-operation of owners. AH commented that the DC had resolved to go down CPO route if necessary, but it was better not to. KJ was concerned that the credit crunch may further muddy waters.</p>	
7	Town Plan and Executive Review - Mark Forrester	<p>MF said that the LSP had received a report from Town Partnerships earlier in summer. Leek/Cheadle struggled to find a focus once MTP finished. Now had focussed on master plan. Biddulph has the AAP, so is in different situation. LSP asked what this Partnership wishes to do - hence the questionnaire sent to all members. Looking for input from members. Results would be brought back to a workshop for further discussion. He encouraged members to complete & return.</p> <p>KJ said that Market Towns Programme was an important part of Executive, but by no means the driver. Primary objective had been to push for the bypass to enable regeneration to start. This body had a proven track record and was in less danger of losing direction. We are lucky and fortunate to have the AAP and something to work towards.</p> <p>CA added that the Executive was set up in 1998 to bring bodies together in local/central government. Predates what has happened in other towns and we need to continue to improve community input.</p>	
8	Publicity	<p>Any items requiring promotion to be discussed and agreed. KJ commented that the Executive had been remiss in this in past - important to work with Communities. He asked whether there was anything members would like to see as press release.</p> <p>CJ asked if there was anything we could say on redundant buildings? KJ emphasised that owners needed to work together.</p> <p>MW said that we could publicise AWM funding, but could not be specific about the properties in question.</p>	

		<p>could not be specific about the properties in question.</p> <p>CA - re the CDT, we should talk to DP to formulate something positive.</p> <p>ML said that anything where Action was to be reported should be publicised.</p> <p>Highway Safety Audit - approval, with further discussion of some points with BBC.</p> <p>SH said that the County Council had no further funds - apart from carrying out work for a Stage III safety audit. S.106 money ring was fenced for the pedestrianisation scheme (approx £200 k in total)</p> <p>AH said that Sainsbury's was going ahead as far as possible - only 1 month slippage so far. Hoped to have addressed as many concerns as possible before going to planning.</p> <p>KJ - Don't forget Town Council was also a willing partner in regeneration.</p>	
9	Other Business	<p>ML - John Street - at Locality Action Group had been discussion at great length, but felt should be brought here and wondered if a small working group could meet to look at improvements and contact residents.</p> <p>AGREED</p> <p>Members -AM, CJ, ML, KJ, GA (to arrange first meeting afterwards)</p> <p>KJ thanked all for input and officers for reports.</p>	<p>AM CJ. ML KJ GA</p>
10	Date of next meeting	<p>28th November 2008 at 2.00pm</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 3.55 pm</p>	