



BIDDULPH PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

Notes of Meeting held on 28 November 2008

	Introductions	The Chair welcomed all those present, especially Chris Lewis, who was to assist Andy Mason on Phase II	
	Present	<p><u>Voting members</u> Cllr Gerald Adams (BTC) Charlotte Atkins MP Diane Casewell (Voluntary Sector) 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> Chris Lewis (SCC) Andy Mason (SCC) Kate Thacker (BTC) Ruth Reeves (SMDC) Michelle Wallace (SMDC) Perry Wardle (SMDC)</p> <p><u>Also in attendance:</u> Councillor Arthur Forrester (for Councillor Ralphs)</p>	
1	Apologies	Kim Corbishley (BBC) Sarah Humphreys (Town Centre Co-ordinator) Jill Norman (SMCVS) Mark Trillo (SMDC) Cllr Sybil Ralphs (SMDC)	
2	Notes of last meeting	Approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 24 th October 2008 - these were agreed as a true record. a PW Item 8 (P6) the figure of £200k was an approximation and was still under negotiation so had not been fixed. b CA asked for an update of the Hollinshead's coach situation. The company need to organise their programme of work for next year. The owners had written to CA to express their concerns. Direct enquiries had been made to Sainsbury's but a response was still awaited. The company was in an urgent situation. PW reported that he had written to Hollinsheads on the 27 th November and would speak to CA following the meeting.	

3	Declarations of Interest	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Councillors Lovatt and Jackson declared personal interest in the CAB and the Children's Centre Mrs Rushton declared a personal interest in the CAB	
4	Market Towns Programme - Michelle Wallace	MW had forwarded two documents to members - the grant claim and monitoring report. We had claimed just over £36,000 in Quarter 2. Re the Monitoring report - was slightly disappointed with outputs (Leek College) . Enrolments were lower than anticipated. However, the toy library was successful. Update - the evaluation of the programme to be completed by March 2009. Company now appointed - RHIS would be carrying out the evaluation. Permission had been sought to pass out contact details of executive to have members' views canvassed. This was given. CA asked why there were low outputs with Leek College - had advertising not been done? MW replied that there would be discussion further with the college and where to push this in the community in the New Year. The Chair felt there may be a better take up with level of redundancies we are hearing about and that the Toy and Equipment Library was working well. MW as part of work, will feedback to this group in New Year. Redundant buildings grant scheme - not much more to update - but some have returned paperwork to James Hinton at Stafford - All documents to be in by Christmas Chair what were the risks if any of these don't join the scheme? Don't want funding to go back to AWM. MW didn't feel that this would happen; the schemes were all big enough to allocate the majority of the funding. PW - two of the schemes looked very promising.	
5	Highways: Andy Mason	The Chair was disappointed that no-one had attended from BBC. AM reported that he had not been contacted since the previous meeting. He had met with the BBC following last month's Executive meeting. One of their concerns had been better signposting to the car parking, this had now been done. Drawing 1 was tabled which showed the completion of Phase 1A and Phase 1B. A number of issues had been brought up at the last meeting following the safety report. Some small things had been done, but County Council was not allowed to carry out highway works in December during the run up to Christmas. The BBC had expressed concern about the proposals to narrow the road width at the junction of South View/High Street/King Street. The BBC would have liked this to return to two-way. It was noted that, legally, this could be done and would take up to six months. However, it would cause other problems. The view of the Executive members was sought	

Drawing 2 was tabled which showed the proposed Phase II. These proposals would restrict loading/unloading unless during designated hours. The dark green section (Wharf Road to South View) would be one-way southbound for buses only, deliveries could be allowed before 10 and after 4, but no other vehicles would be allowed. The County Council was open to what the Executive/BBC wanted.

The Chair asked if all members were clear on the proposal for the dark green area. AM said that traffic orders would take a minimum of 6 months; but if the Police objected the County Council would not go ahead with the proposal. Other formal consultation would take place including other services, County Councillors and the Town Council.

The Chair advised that Officers at the County Council should steer clear of the request to re-open that section of the road. He proposed that a vote be taken.

GA said that putting a 21st Century traffic system into a Victorian town would be a very difficult job.

AH said that consultation would be needed on Phase II, which should include the suggestion to revert to two way traffic; this would give every one a choice on the whole package.

Chair noted that if that section was re-opened, it would mean the deletion of the proposed buses only lane. AH commented that this was a situation which the residents at each end were in favour but the traders were not. He proposed that the whole scheme should go out to consultation and not just one or two parts.

ML did not think that the buses only lane would be an issue, as the access to town was not possible from the northern end anyway. Regarding the BBC, she had understood that members were to come back to the Executive within a couple of weeks and she was disappointed that nothing had been heard from them. ML would prefer to decide immediately whether to stick with the decision on the dark green area now and was concerned about the time frame.

AM said that timing would be crucial; it was possible that it could take 6 months to get a new traffic order. Work needed to start on the site Mar/April and these works would have highway implications especially around Wharf Road/South View. This work would probably start in June 2009.

CJ asked if the dark green area was the natural next stage, following work already done. The Chair responded that it was - the consultation was vital, as once the decision had been made there would be no going back. The important issue was to get it right. AF said it was important to move forwards, not backwards, and a decision should be made. The Chair responded that this was the reason to take a vote; the blueprint had to

come through consultation. PW noted that the road configuration had not gone through the AAP process; it was just a principle of making the town centre more pedestrian friendly. The Chair said that he would like to the meeting to make a decision on the dark green area.

The Chair proposed that the Executive supported the current traffic flow. GA requested a named vote. KT queried who could vote. ML pointed out that the group did not allow substitutions and the Chair said that in the past substitutes had been rejected; he asked AF not to vote.

A named vote taken and all voting members present were in favour of retaining traffic movements in the Wharf Road to South View section of the High Street as currently in place.

AM

The Chair noted that the other traffic flow proposals had not been widely consulted upon and that this should now be done. There was a maximum of three months for responses and a further month to analyse the responses ie by the end of March, to give clear instructions to officers of the CC. Officers were asked for ideas on methods of consultation.

AM suggested some form of exhibition. Individual groups could be invited to exhibition to give their views.

The Chair suggested putting the proposals into the next edition of the Reporter, which would go out to 7,000 homes in January 2009. He also supported a public exhibition along the lines of the Planning for Real exercise.

DC asked if it would be helpful to include the Sainsbury's development on the plan.

PW suggested holding a workshop with BBC prior to any information going public, to seek its views.

The Chair reminded the meeting that it was important that consultation was begun as soon as possible - not as fait accompli - but to start discussions. It would be a very sensitive issue and the views of the Chamber must be taken on board, but he cautioned that they must not outweigh the views of the general public.

AH noted that many of the traders did not live in Biddulph. The process should be begun in December. The Chair proposed that a letter should be sent to the BBC informing them of this.

AM was worried about the content of the proposed exhibition.

The Chair replied that 2 or 3 different options should be given, but care should be taken to rule out options which could not be delivered.

AH commented that following the workshops a maximum of 3 or 4 options should go forwards.

AM brought up the subject of finance. The County Council had

already spent approximately £550k, in addition to the approximately 140k from AWM. The CC budget had been spent; however on a positive note the CC expected to receive approximately £150k as S.106 money from Sainsbury's for the highway works in addition to the money which they would have to provide for the mini roundabout. A 'rough' estimate for the work on the plan was £350k, which would result in a £200k shortfall.

The Chair said that the DC/CC would get together on this. The numbers were rather high for the Town Council's budget, although it was felt that it would wish to help in some way. The big issue would be the timescale, the proposal would have to go before the Cabinet again which would need to know what the funding issues were. The Town Council would like to put money into environmental enhancements.

AM added that the estimate was not robust as officers did not know exactly what was required.

AH said that the DC would talk to the CC and sort out what was needed.

AH asked AM about the lighting columns, he had heard that they would not be replaced until 2026.

AM replied that there had been a major change with street lighting (PFI) in the country and 2026 was now date which had been given.

AH added that the Town Council had always been in favour of adding to the cost of basic columns to upgrade them to those of heritage type

The Chair said that serious discussions were now needed to take place between DC/CC and asked for AF to take this information back to discuss with the Leader. He asked PW how long the discussions would take. PW replied that he would need to speak to the Chief Finance Officer.

Chair - to recap: a meeting to be organised with the Biddulph Business Chamber; 3D consultation; DC would help CC with consultation process with officer time.

ML reported on a meeting about John Street traffic issues. AM had carried out a traffic count to ascertain the volume/weight of traffic using John Street. The perception had been that a high number of HGVs used the street had not been borne out by the data. Further counts would now be carried out, both manual and automatic before they would be able to say what the volume was and what % of the traffic was HGVs. AM had asked ML to ask the residents which day they considered the best to carry out the survey.

CA asked between which hours of the day the survey would take place?

		<p>AM replied that it would be a 12 hour period from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm, on one day</p> <p>The Chair asked what would happen if a high number of HGVs were counted?</p> <p>AH mentioned an idea which had been on the table for 14 years, a change of priority at the John Street/Well Street junction, he asked for a rough idea of the cost?</p> <p>AM gestimated the cost at a £2k.</p> <p>The Chair queried if it would be better to implement this first and then carry out the traffic survey?</p> <p>ML responded that the problem was that there were no base line figures pre the IRR.</p> <p>ML reported that she had been spending hours trying to get the water leak in the High Street resolved. A meeting had been held that morning between the CC, Severn Trent, United Utilities to try to resolve problem. It was now felt that there may be a blockage and specialist equipment would be brought in.</p>	
6	Publicity	<p>a highway proposals</p> <p>b publicity that trying to resolve John Street traffic issues</p>	
7	Date of next meeting	<p>Date of next meeting - to be arranged.</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 3.55 pm</p>	