

MEETING OF TOWN TEAM COMMITTEE
2nd November 2012

At the Town Hall, Ivybridge at 5pm

Present: Gary Streeter (in the Chair)
County Cllr Roger Croad, District Cllrs Barber and Saltern, Town Cllr Mrs Silsbury; Richard Peachey, Jack Sutcliffe, Steve Hitch, Simon Blacker, Caroline Hodgson, Joanne Parr, Margaret Punchard and Cllr Phillip Dredge

In attendance – Richard Sheard (Chief Executive, SHDC); James Doxford (SHDC); Lesley Hughes (Town Clerk, Ivybridge Town Council)

1. Chris Passmore attended the meeting to give her apologies and to explain that she could not continue on the group because of other pressures. The Chairman thanked her for her contribution.

2. Declaration of interests and permitted dispensations

No new declarations were made in addition to those approved at the meeting on 28th September.

3. Notes of the meeting held on 28th September were considered, approved and signed by the Chairman.

As Signage was not included on the agenda Simon Blackler gave a brief update, to the effect that the Broxap signs were being delivered w/c 12th November and the walks/trails signs had arrived and 800 screws were needed to fix them to posts! Matters still outstanding were the couple of granite markers and the idea of a map sign (but Simon was discussing this with SHDC).

4. Leisure Centre – deferred until later in the meeting.

5. Retail and Leisure Study document was introduced by James Doxford who explained that the commissioning of the study was being considered by South Hams District Council at their Executive meeting on 8th November. JD referred to the need for the study as part of the support for the wider District development plan which would cover the period to 2031. There was some discussion about matters that could be usefully covered by the plan and the importance to getting feedback from people who didn't use the town, as well as those who did.

The District anticipated the total cost of the plan being £30,000, of which they would allocated £20,000 with the remainder coming from DCLG money held on behalf of Ivybridge. The Town Team supported use of the Portas money (£5000) and the Neighbourhood Plan money (£5000) to meet the £10,000 contribution required from the town.

4. Leisure Centre – Richard Sheard referred to the report to the Executive on 8th November and the options available, but that Option 2 with a refurbishment costing up to £350,000 was being recommended. This would include work on the pool changing area, dryside changing, limited improvements to the entrance area, conversion of the squash courts to dance space and covering over the lido area. He referred to Option 1 with a cost of £1 million which had been discussed with Tone Leisure. The application to Sport England had not been successful.

Cllr Saltern indicated his support for Option 2. Steve Hitch explained why he supported Option 1. Cllr Croad reminded the meeting that the pressure on local authorities was not going to go away and capital programmes would inevitably be vulnerable, so there could be no categorical assurances that money held back (eg £650,000) would be available for future investment in the site. The Chairman endorsed the view that budgets would be under pressure for a further 5-7 years, and he believed that it was important that if Option 2 was adopted then the remaining money needed to be committed and spent within 2 years at the latest. Cllr Croad believed that even that timeframe could be risky.

Richard Sheard reminded the meeting that committing sums of money for more than 4 years was extremely rare and £350,000 was a significant sum of money to invest.

In respect of the Lido area all agreed that it needed urgent attention and ideas were proposed, including a community garden.

As there was support for both options the Chairman asked Members to vote for either Option 1 or 2. Option 2 was supported by a narrow margin, but with the need for use of remaining funds to be clearly defined asap.

6(i) Portas money considered earlier in the meeting

6(ii) Free car parking initiatives were discussed and Cllr Saltern referred to the summary document. The Chamber were meeting on Tuesday evening and would hopefully give support. Cllr Saltern explained the basis for the free parking in December scheme and how the costs would be split. He enquired whether Harford Road should be included? There would be a two hour time limit, a need to promote it well and monitor the impact. As everyone would need to take a ticket then the usage could be measured.

Overall there was no support for Harford Road being included so the free parking would apply to the car parks in Glanvilles Mill and Leonards Road.

Jack Sutcliffe would lead on the PR to publicise the scheme.

The Chairman thanked Jack and Levanter Properties for bringing this proposal forward and expressed the hope that it would be a success.

6(iii) The Town Clerk advised that the membership of the ATCM came free of charge until end December and information would be circulated to the group when received.

6(iv) Revitalising our High Streets – Cllr Barber outlined the background to the event on 6th November at Follaton House and indicated that 7 communities would be represented (including Ivybridge).

6(v) Update on Glanvilles Mill from Jack Sutcliffe included the appointment of consultancy expert on marketing and branding; meetings with tenants; £30,000 earmarked to spend from shareholders on various improvements; riverbank cleared and the residual 8m high oak stump would be converted into a sculpture; signage; replacing benches and lighting columns and taking down part of the wall between the river and triangular area to open the area up. Next summer the service yard area would be painted. 2000 shopper bags would be given out during Spring 2013. Markets were being developed and proper structure would be needed.

Cllr Saltern advised that the tree works opposite Glanvilles Mill which were due to be done by SHDC would be programmed in soon.

6(vi) Richard Peachey explained that Fore Street was evolving as a shopping area and any consultant appointed for the study needed to work with the private sector. The town was becoming a destination for the specialist shopper needs, eg opticians, wedding shop, but these generally required only occasional visits not daily shopping. He also mentioned that Ivybridge First was closing down as the scheme was struggling to get interest from enough traders and volunteer efforts. Richard commented that it was difficult to get retailers to work together as generally they had to focus on their own individual businesses rather than having the time to work on a collective basis.

7. Stowford Mill would be reported to the next meeting as the Town Council had commissioned a report by Torbay Development Agency and SHDC were visiting the Mill on 15th November.

8. The wider Town Team meeting, open to the public on 7th December was confirmed and ideally include 3 or 4 presentations, eg Jack and Richard plus Mill update. It would also be an opportunity to raise awareness in the community of the vacancy on the Town Team group created by the resignation of Chris Passmore.

9. Date of next Committee meeting – Friday 11th January 2013 at 5pm

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....