

MEETING OF TOWN TEAM COMMITTEE
1st March 2013

At the Town Hall, Ivybridge at 5pm

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

In attendance –Lesley Hughes (Town Clerk, Ivybridge Town Council)

In his opening remarks the Chairman emphasised the importance of keeping an eye on the bigger picture and not getting too bogged down in details. The team was making good progress and he was confident that this would continue.

1. Apologies were received from Richard Sheard, Jack Sutcliffe, James Doxford, Tim Bacon and Steven Vincent.
2. Declaration of interests and permitted dispensations

No new declarations were made in addition to those approved at the meeting on 28th September, but Simon Blackler reminded all about his signage declaration made at that time.

3. Notes of the meeting held on 11th January were considered and the minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

In the matters arising Steve Hitch reported that Tone were keen to see a covered community garden but could not put funding into that scheme, so Steve queried whether the Town Council would consider investing in it. Steve offered to write formally to the Town Council to seek their views.

Mike Saltern confirmed that SHDC was proceeding with the main items, in discussion with Tone Leisure, and a small element of the earmarked funding was for an upgrade of the outside area. Simon Blackler confirmed that ideas were being fed back to Ross Kennerley in respect of the community garden.

Notes of the Special meeting on 15th February were considered, approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. The co-option of Steven Vincent was acknowledged and although he had given apologies for the meeting, he had indicated he would be attending the wider Town Team meeting on 12th April.
5. Publicity for Town Team

Tony Barber proposed that there should be a website to promote the town and that finding the resources for the provision of a website needed to be considered. The meeting recognised that the Ivybridge Business website already contained a lot of information and could be a good basis for a website to host information about the Town Team and its activities. Section 106 funds were a potential source of funding? Lesley Hughes referred to the Town Team fund which still had £5000 in hand. Any new website could be linked to that for Ivybridge Business, plus the District and Town Council websites.

Gary Streeter offered to follow up with Steven Vincent whether he could assist with a standalone website for the Town Team and to provide a quote for that service, with the intention that Town Team money could be used for this purpose.

6. Town Centre Study Brief – Mike Saltern referred to some of the responses received and that the start date was imminent. Responses would be assimilated before the workshop was held so whilst 12th April possible, it could not be confirmed. It was agreed that the questionnaire needed to be more tailored to Ivybridge and that the workshop probably needed to be held in the evening (rather than daytime) if input from retailers was required. Mike would report back to James Doxford.

7. Use of Section 106 funds - Mike Saltern confirmed that Section 106 money would need to be spent by February 2014. Deferral of a decision until after the Retail and Leisure Study had reported was proposed, along with other ideas as follows:

An Arts Festival

Walking related events/activities – Walkers are welcome application being made
Xmas lights (replace those bought previously) or 2 laser lights up/down Fore Street

Upgraded shop front signs – more welcoming signage

Seating – 50p bench around tree

Signposts in former WI garden – cluttered and needed tidying up

Free car parking in SHDC car parks (for specific events)

Revamping the Thursday market and moving to Fore Street

CCTV in lower part of Fore Street

Signage (interpretation boards) – Mike Saltern reminded the group that SHDC had separately committed some funding for this purpose

French market

Information Board promoting events (and kept updated)

The list could be provided for the meeting on 12th April and the community invited to indicate their support for ideas and add their own.

8. Ongoing Town Team matters

(i) Signage – Gary Streeter reported on his meeting with Mr John Howell (Lukesland) about walks onto the Moors. It had been a positive meeting and there was an opportunity for a wider conversation with the town to explore the

issues of town v country. Mr Hurrell owns adjacent land and there would need to be a dialogue to see if usage could be encourage, perhaps in some areas improving the ground conditions to suit family walkers wanting a weekend walk (rather than those who are hiking across the Moors).

A meeting would be organised which Ivybridge Town Council would be asked to host, with representatives from SHDC and Dartmoor NPA, with Gary Streeter and the relevant landowners.

Simon Blackler updated on the Town Centre signs by explaining the problems with the tarnishing. Lesley Hughes, DCC and Broxap had been involved as the situation was unsatisfactory. All the finger arms would need to be returned to Broxap in the next few weeks for remedial works.

In respect of the Interpretation Board, Simon confirmed that he has been commissioned by SHDC to come up with a report and currently SHDC Officers were considering it and hopefully ideas would be presented to the next Town Team meeting.

As part of the Stowford Mill development the links with the Moors could be enhanced, if necessary with some 106 funding and this starts to give greater access to the Moors. Certain times of the year young people go onto the Moors near to Ivybridge and this creates tensions with the landowners so there is a need to improve understanding and relationships.

(ii) Neighbourhood Plan for Ivybridge – the Town Clerk advised that the boundary for the plan area had been submitted to South Hams District Council, following the confirmation by Ugborough of their boundary area.

The Town Team had within its terms of reference “to support the ongoing production and delivery of a town plan for Ivybridge, with a focus on the town centre” so it has been anticipated that the element of the Neighbourhood Plan referring to the town centre will be in the remit of the Town Team.

The DCLG support the scheme and money is earmarked for some of the work (£5000 of the £20,000) has gone towards the Retail and Leisure Study), and the Town Council can access further funding (a further £7000) by going down the Neighbourhood Plan route. There is also the advantage longer term that when the District has a Community Infrastructure Levy policy that the Town Council would be eligible for 25% for community initiatives (with a Neighbourhood Plan), rather than 15%.

Mike Saltern questioned whether the boundary should be extended to the west to include Lee Mill Industrial Estate and perhaps the Retail and Leisure Study would indicate that this was pertinent. Mike agreed to report back to the District on this idea and the plan boundary be potentially be put on hold for the time being.

Some members of the group had little knowledge of the Neighbourhood Plan process so Lesley Hughes agreed to find some summary documents to circulate to the Town Team.

(iii) Glanvilles Mill, Fore Street and Chamber update – Lesley Hughes read out the brief update given by Jack Sutcliffe about forthcoming initiatives, including the carving of the tree stump alongside the river.

Richard Peachey gave an update on Fore Street and mentioned how quickly Kimberley Court had sold which seemed to indicate some investor confidence in Ivybridge. He also mentioned that the Chamber was keen to see the French market return and indicated that they would support its location in Fore Street (rather than Erme Court), alongside the idea of a full or partial closure of the road. Lesley Hughes advised that it was being followed up with the French market organisers but they were proving to be difficult to contact.

9. Stowford Mill – Lesley Hughes reported that following the meeting on 15th February the Town Council had confirmed that it wished to follow up the discussions in relation to hydro power and contact had been made with the Environment Agency. Malcolm Elliot was working with James Doxford on the draft Design Brief. Outcome of the Town Council's Community Right to Bid would be known by 21st March 2013.

10. Preparation for wider Town Team meeting on 12th April at 6pm. On this occasion rather than have a series of presentations there would be more participation and a brainstorming session using a flipchart to record ideas, including those relating to the TESCO 106 money. It was hoped that the girl guides would also be able to give some feedback on their ideas too.

In terms of advertising, Amanda Pellatt offered to do a poster and Steven Vincent would be contacted about more general publicity via the Ivybridge Magazine.

Date of next Committee meeting – Friday 17th May 2013 at 5pm

The meeting closed at 6.10pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....