

**MEETING OF TOWN TEAM COMMITTEE**  
**17<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**At the Town Hall, Ivybridge** at the conclusion of the Neighbourhood Planning session with Deborah McCann

Present: Gary Streeter (in the Chair)  
District Cllrs Barber and Saltern, Town Cllrs Mrs Silsbury and Pringle; Steve Hitch, Simon Blacker, Caroline Hodgson, Amanda Pellatt, Steven Vincent, Joanne Parr and Margaret Punchard

In attendance –Lesley Hughes (Town Clerk, Ivybridge Town Council) and James Doxford (SHDC)

In his opening remarks the Chairman emphasised that the talking couldn't go on and decisions needed to be taken once the report from the independent experts was received.

1. Apologies were received from Richard Sheard, Jack Sutcliffe, Cllr Roger Croad and Richard Peachey.
2. Declaration of interests and permitted dispensations

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

3. Notes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January were considered and subject to the section 3 being changed to reflect that Tone did not wish to see a covered community garden but just a covered area. The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. Gary Streeter formally welcomed Steven Vincent and also the new Mayor of Ivybridge, Cllr Mrs Karen Pringle.
5. Access to Dartmoor – Gary Streeter reported on the meeting with landowners and associated organisations and reported that another meeting would be held to try and smooth over the Town v country issues. There were shared areas of interest and Stowford Mill could create an enhanced access to the Moors, but it must be planned with the Dartmoor landowners.
6. Feedback from the wider Town Team meeting – the position regarding the timeframe for spending 106 funds was confirmed as being by February 2014, so if the Retail and Leisure report was available in June then the July meeting could decide on the remaining £25,000 (*Note Cllr Saltern confirmed that the actual figure at £25,800 at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013*)

Of the ideas raised at the wider meeting Lesley Hughes referred to the promotion of B&B provision as being worthy of support as more accommodation was

needed in the town as the few B&B's were diminishing in number. Arising from the Retail study workshop had been the important of linking up Fore Street and Glanvilles Mill, as many people felt it was like walking into a loading bay, instead of the Fore Street shopping area.

A key issue was considered to be branding and a question whether professional advice and a website was needed. However in trying to attract tourists the issues of a lack of hotel accommodation was again highlighted. Amanda Pellatt felt that the 106 money would be insufficient to address these issues. Simon Blackler proposed that professionals were required for the branding, not to be done by volunteers. Caroline Hodgson raised the Fore Street traffic direction – referred to in the Princes Foundation report – as traffic into Ivybridge didn't take in the best view of the town looking at Dartmoor.

Gary Streeter summarised by saying that four points seemed to be emerging for consideration:

- Branding/marketing
- B&B event
- Joining up Fore Street and Glanvilles Mill
- Markets – how can they play a part?

Steven Vincent suggested that some small wins were needed – for example painting the area between Glanvilles Mill and Fore Street, but Cllr Saltern reminded the group of land ownerships and that these works couldn't be done.

**ACTION** – a letter be sent to Day Lewis (or Boots if still the owners) to find out what action could be taken to improve the rear car park area.

**ACTION** – Gary Streeter asked that before the next meeting the members of the group submit any ideas on using the 106 funds – a shortlist would then be presented for consideration on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

7. Town Centre Study Brief – James Doxford explained that the draft report was expected by mid June with some recommendations to increase footfall. Steve Hitch referred to the statements about Tone Leisure as he was appalled to see the usage figures when about 5000 people from Ivybridge use the facilities and there were other sports clubs – tennis, cricket, rugby – all successful but not mentioned in the survey.

**ACTION** Gary Streeter asked James Doxford to take back the views expressed and asked the consultants to ensure that they spoke directly with Tone Leisure.

Steve Hitch expressed the hope that the report would have something visionary and the Leisure Centre was a key area. Gary Streeter indicated that if the report didn't resonate with the group then a judgement would need to be taken.

8. Stowford Mill Planning Brief - James Doxford confirmed that the draft document had been circulated for comment and the document would now go out for public consultation. Lesley Hughes reported that she had attended a meeting at the Mill with the Environment Agency and Hawkins Hydro with a view to exploring options for hydro power and the EA had suggested that a pre-application submission be made by Hawkins Hydro for the Mill.

9. Glanvilles Mill, Fore Street and Chamber update – in respect of the Community Market Margaret Punchard represented the views of a Glanvilles Mill tenant, who had spoken to her and Amanda Pellatt, to express their concerns about the way it was operating. It was considered that its increasing commercialisation rather than being community based was conflicting with the local traders and potentially damaging their trade so perhaps there was a need to revisit the aims and objectives of the market.

**ACTION** – Gary Streeter to liaise with Jack Sutcliffe of Levanter Properties to ascertain their perspective on the community market and plans for the future.

Lesley Hughes read out the statement from Jack Sutcliffe about the developments in Glanvilles Mill.

10. Old Fire Station site – Amanda Pellatt reported that Rebecca Shiers was a professional artist, with her own internet business and she was keen to develop a business opportunity based around arts and crafts in the building, with the support of the Town Council. However currently the building was due to be knocked down for housing. Cllr Saltern responded by referring to the residential nature of the area and the Housing Association who wished to use the sites for four flats and demolish the building, as this addressed a District Council priority. Amanda responded by emphasising the importance of building on the arts and crafts sector in Ivybridge by offering workshops and a small gallery. It could grow into something bigger for the town.

11. Lesley Hughes reported on the French market which would be located in Fore Street on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June and also the Arts Festival at The Watermark in mid July.

12. Wider Town Team meeting in July to be deferred until Autumn. A website for the Town Team would be helpful but it needed a clear purpose. Steve Hitch queried how views expressed could be acknowledged, eg he had responded to the Stowford Mill brief but heard nothing. Emails and exchanging views could become longwinded and not very productive so possibly a private forum on any website might be helpful.

**ACTION** – Gary Streeter, Steve Vincent and Lesley Hughes to liaise regarding a website and a forum as part of it.

Cllr Barber referred to the District forum on Town Centre issues six months ago and enquired whether there was merit in repeating such an event. It was

considered that other opportunities existed including that offered by the ATCM who were holding a regional event at The Watermark on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Simon Blackler updated everyone on the signage to advise that it should be back in situ very soon.

Date of next Committee meeting – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 5pm

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Signed..... Date.....  
Chairman

*NB The wider Town Team meeting has now been rearranged for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October and the Town Team meeting changed to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July.*