

MEETING OF TOWN TEAM COMMITTEE
12th July 2013

At the Town Hall, Ivybridge

Present: Gary Streeter (in the Chair)

District Cllr Saltern, Town Cllrs Mrs Silsbury and Pringle; Steve Hitch, Richard Peachey, Simon Blacker, Caroline Hodgson, Amanda Pellatt, Steven Vincent, Joanne Parr and Margaret Punchard

In attendance –Lesley Hughes (Town Clerk, Ivybridge Town Council), Richard Sheard (SHDC) and Ed Salter (Peter Brett Associates).

Janet Parsons and Leah Parsons attended the meeting until item 7 (brought forward) had been considered.

Welcome to Lucy Ball – ATCM Regional Special Advisor for the SW who gave a very brief outline of the role of ATCM in supporting Town Teams

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Barber, Jack Sutcliffe, James Doxford and Cllr Roger Croad.

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 17th May were considered.

The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

7. As the main item of business related to the presentation on the retail and leisure study then it was considered appropriate to bring the item forward and Ed Salter was invited to do the presentation (copy of slides attached).

Points mentioned following the presentation:

A detailed feasibility of the mixed use development for the Leisure Centre site would be needed;

Steve Hitch emphasised the wider sports scene which wasn't mentioned, eg football, cricket, tennis;

257 interviews were carried out in the Town Centre;

Leah Parsons didn't believe that young people would view the town as portrayed in the study;

reference to the changes already since the report was written and the importance of appreciating that it was a snapshot of the town on that date;

Elizabeth Silsbury highlighted the need for family orientated activities – water park at Leisure Centre – need to think about residents, not just tourists;

Simon Blackler mentioned that the signage was better now than at the time of the report;

Ed Salter suggested that some towns had stretched the shopping day very successfully – a cultural shift to have one evening per week where all shops opened and free parking from 6pm;

Caroline Hodgson referred to the need for space near the river for restaurants, rather than Fore Street;

Richard Peachey mentioned the efforts to get restaurants into the town but competition from surrounding villages and losing one to Plymouth were challenges to address;

Gary Streeter referred to the economy in the Plymouth travel to work area being more buoyant and the need to use the report to turn it into the outline of a plan for discussion at the meeting in September.

Ed Salter was thanked for the report and the presentation.

ACTION – Gary Streeter to produce a plan for the meeting in September.

4. Access to Dartmoor – Gary Streeter reported on the meeting with landowners and felt that there was goodwill towards trying to working towards a solution for better access which the landowners could support.

One idea was to encourage the use of the Station car park, instead of Harford Moor Gate, for those walking on Dartmoor as the parking is very limited at Harford. A plan will be drawn up in conjunction with DNPA.

Amanda Pellatt advised that as the co-ordinator for walks that she would follow this up and Mark Walker was already looking at leading some walks from the car park, although in the past they had struggled to get numbers.

Simon Blackler mentioned the new signage and the fact that it all started from The Watermark so he couldn't support the train station car park being the new starting point.

5. Website - Gary Streeter confirmed that he and Lesley Hughes had met with Steven Vincent to discuss the idea of the website and what resource might be available to build and maintain an online presence as it couldn't include funding for a full time person to do this job.

Steven explained that as there was already the Town Council website, a business website, The Watermark plus individual organisation and club websites there needed to be a portal website which had some content on a landing page but linking into what is already in existence. There were various social media possibilities, eg facebook, twitter, so costings were needed to see what would be the most effective.

Simon Blackler referred to the Kingsbridge website which cost £10000 to set up but if it couldn't be updated regularly it was a real constraint.

Discussion about the Visit South Devon site recognised its focus on Dartmouth and Kingsbridge but Mike Saltern advised that the District had indicated it wanted a wider focus to include the western part of the District.

ACTION – Steven Vincent to bring back costings and more information on the website to the September meeting.

6. Consideration of TESCO funds - Gary Streeter opened this item to say that he had met with Helen and Jo earlier in the day to discuss the Community Hub and market. They would like to do more on Friday evenings and need financial support to do the events, advertising and marketing – between £5000 and £10,000.

He opened up the meeting for other ideas. Lesley Hughes suggested a two way split with £15,000 allocated for marketing, branding, events (to include the shoppers guide) and £10,000 towards the feasibility study of the Leisure Centre site (as envisaged in the retail and leisure study).

Jack Sutcliffe from Glanvilles Mill had suggested expenditure on Christmas lights but there was concern that this had been funded before and it was questionable if there was enough money to spend more on Christmas lights.

The linkage between Fore Street and Glanvilles Mill was mentioned and Gary Streeter confirmed that he would send the letter to Boots.

A general question about the idea of a BID was raised by Richard Sheard and Lucy Ball advised that she had developed six BIDs but they needed a lot of pre consultation, although they could be a very effective tool. It was recognised that already those traders in Glanvilles Mill paid service charges for the type of activity which a BID might do and they could resent paying more.

Steve Hitch then offered to present a plan to the next meeting in September about the Leisure Centre site as he had been working on an idea which he had shared with Jack Sutcliffe from Levanter, but needed to discuss with Tone Leisure before saying any more.

It was therefore considered premature to consider the TESCO funding so the decision was adjourned, pending the development of the Vision for the town which could be discussed in September and presented to the Wider Town Team on 4th October. Retailers could also be called to a meeting to discuss the Vision.

Lesley Hughes mentioned the need to be aware of the February 2014 date by which time the Tesco money had to be spent and if final decisions weren't being taken until end October then this could make the ordering and paying for any projects emerging very tight.

8. Stowford Mill Planning Brief - the public consultation document had been published and responses were invited by 24th July. Lucy Ball drew attention to the role of LEPs and that perhaps meeting with Chris Garcia would be helpful.

9. Glanvilles Mill, Fore Street and Chamber update
Gary Streeter advised that he had met with Paul Weston and Jack Sutcliffe recently and they were quite upbeat about Glanvilles Mill.

Richard Peachey indicated that the Chamber was still “on ice” but that it was likely that the Greengrocer would be leaving from Fore Street. Already two people had indicated they were interested in the premises.

In the recent discussions with the Local Government Boundary Commission Gary Streeter had raised the issue of the Ivybridge boundary and the potential to include Lee Mill Industrial Estate, but he had been told that the review didn't offer the opportunity to change Parish boundaries.

10. Walkers are Welcome – Amanda Pellatt reported on actions being taken to become part of the initiative. It had full Town Council support as Mark Walker had started the process but it needed to be revived. She would need help with signatures to demonstrate support; £50 per year to keep it going and a committee needed to be formed. Kingsbridge already have the status and Modbury are going through the process. She had visited the B&B's already and they were keen. Cllr Saltern offered £100 from his Locality fund – Amanda to complete the relevant application.

11. Dementia Friendly Town – Lesley Hughes provided information about the process that the Town Council was going through in respect of becoming not only a Dementia Friendly Town but wider than that, to be welcoming to all whatever their disability. She advised that Caroline Hodgson in her Dame Hannah Rogers capacity was working to see what extra support and help could be brought to the development of the initiative which could include electronic devices and phone apps, plus the design of a logo for each participating shop or business that was recognisable as indicating that there were trained and supportive staff available to assist.

An event would be held at The Watermark on Friday 27th September.

12. Christmas Festivities – Friday 29th November and Saturday 30th November.

13. Preparation of Vision for Wider Town Team meeting on Friday 4th October – Gary Streeter would liaise with Steve Hitch to feed in his plans for the Leisure Centre site so that there was something to present to the next Town Team meeting and then to the wider meeting on 4th October.

14. Nomination of representatives to attend the marketing event, organised by AMI at The Watermark on 22nd October (information previously circulated)

The nominations were Steven Vincent, Martin Coard, Lesley Hughes and Caroline Hodgson. Richard Peachey indicated his wish to attend if Martin Coard wasn't available.

15. Date of next Committee meeting – Friday 13th September 2013 at 6pm
(To note the change of date and time)

The meeting closed at 7.09

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