

MINUTES OF THE TOWN PLAN COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2021
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL AT 6:30PM

PRESENT: Councillors: Julie Tucker (Chair), Alan Booth, Sue Amor, Andrew Dyke,
Mark Goodge, Robert Hale
Co-opted
Members: Robin Walker, Bruce Taylor, Shawn Riley

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors: Peter Griffiths, Robert Raphael

OFFICERS PRESENT: Francesca Pridding (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Pat Clifford, Gill Pawson

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Mark Goodge – Item 5, Battleton Brook – Adjoining Landowner

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Town Plan Committee for 18th July 2021

RESOLVED: To approve the with Julie Tucker proposing and Mark Goodge seconding the motion

4. STREET ENTERTAINMENT

Committee members and attending persons discussed ways in which the provision of street entertainment could be achieved on a more formal basis. Wychavon Town Centre Advisory Panel had considered ways to achieve this and had concluded that it would be possible with very little or no financial outlay. A book system, available through the Council website was considered, the aim of which being to ensure that specific busking spots could be identified/marked in the town and fairly allocated to entertainers. This would have the effect of preventing nuisance to residents and local businesses. Use of the Bandstand could be encouraged.

The Clerk agreed to ask fellow Clerks for their experiences and to contact Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council for their insight.

RESOLVED: To investigate further as per discussion with Andrew Dyke proposing and Alan Booth seconding the motion

5. BATTLETON BROOK UPDATE

It was reported that work was commencing and that the New Homes Bonus grant funding money would be spent this month. The Clerk explained that the planning pre-application

had been received and that it had recommended that a full application would be required, however the Clerk advised that the opinion of Wychavon planning officers had been based on some misconceptions regarding the alteration of the watercourse and that the Environment Agency were fully supportive of the plans. All appropriate permissions had been sought via Environment Agency and therefore the Clerk believed the work to fall within permitted development. The Committee were in agreement with this assessment.

RESOLVED: To approve the work going ahead with Councillor Mark Goodge proposing and Councillor Robert Hale seconding the motion.

6. INWARD INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Verbal report delivered by Shawn Riley. SR reported that 50% of the units at the Vale are now let. The Town Centre Prospectus was being worked on and that a Town Centre focus team for each town would be overseeing the delivery of the project and that they would be completed by November. The prospectus is designed to promote 'Economic Evesham' It was reported that a planning application had been received in relation to the restoration of the Public Hall and that 'Levelling Up' funds would be sought for the project. Questions were asked about the creation of cycle paths and the Draft Infrastructure Cycling and Walking Plan which, it was reported would be made public by the end of October.

7. ANTI-LITTER UPDATE

It was reported that at a litter pick on 18/09/21 along the Worcester Road that 14 bags of rubbish were collected.

Members of the Committee felt that the town was looking messy and that rubbish in the streets was becoming more problematic. A Committee member instigated a debate around the need for a new strategic plan relating to litter and consisting of a programme of education and enforcement. It was reported that Wychavon Street Cleaning resources had been diverted elsewhere due to staff shortages on the domestic waste crews.

RESOLVED: To write to Wychavon expressing the concern of the Committee about the cleanliness of the streets of Evesham and their decision to redirect resources with Councillor Andrew Dyke proposing and Councillor Alan Booth seconding the motion.

8. COP26 EVESHAM

It was reported to the Committee that plans were underway for a week-long programme of events designed to raise awareness of the COP26 Conference taking place in Glasgow At the beginning of November. Events in Evesham will include organised cycles, walks and a 'Green Fair' with contributions from various groups committed to Climate protection.

RESOLVED: To allocate £350 of funding from the Town Plan Budget for publicity of the event with Councillor Alan Booth proposing and Councillor Mark Goodge seconding the motion.

9. GREENING EVESHAM FRAMEWORK

It was reported that the framework was due for an update and that it was in the process of being reviewed and once complete this would be brought back to the Committee. The Clerk reported that in conjunction with Greening Evesham she hoped to produce an Environment Policy that could be presented to the Council which would give a clear picture of how the Council intended to help protect the Environment and a framework by which future policy decisions could be taken.

10. TRANSPORT UPDATE

It was reported that successful Family Cycle days had been held and that a stall providing information about Active Travel was set-up, this stall was also operational at the Battle of Evesham in conjunction with the Ramblers Club and served to increase the interest in Active Travel, also appearing in the Wychavon Magazine. Traffic problems in town have highlighted the need to encourage active travel and, in the run-up to COP26, a series of led cycle rides have been planned around the Vale. It was reported that one of the biggest deterrents to active travel was speeding cars but also that the County Council was yet to be convinced of the benefits of a 20mph speed limit. The Committee also heard that a pilot bus scheme being trialled by the County Council would be rolled out to Evesham if successful.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:55pm