

MINUTES OF THE TOWN PLAN COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 07 MARCH 2022
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: Gillian Pawson, Caroline Treadwell

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors: Julie Haines, Tim Haines

OFFICERS PRESENT: Francesca Pridding (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Robin Walker

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Robert Hale – Item 4, AAGP Presentation

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

DEFERRED

4. AAGP PRESENTATION

John Harvey, Chair of the Avon and Arrow Greenway Project introduced himself and other board members in attendance. Mr Harvey started by stressing the importance of having the Evesham Town Plan Committee on board with the project as Evesham is at the start of the proposed route. The project seeks to link up sections of disused railway line to create a cycle and walking paths using CIL money and other funding. Linking sections of the path usually involves collaborating with one or more parish councils. All Councils from Evesham through to Alcester have given their enthusiastic approval for the scheme.

In the last 4 years, a charitable trust was set up and a feasibility study was commissioned from Sustrans funded by Town and Parish Councils, copies are available. The report considers straight line routes and more creative routes. The levels of finance required for each section is considerable, for the Evesham section alone the cost is likely to be around £5 million with an additional £1 million per bridge required, likely to be about 3. The case will be made to government for this money, requiring grassroots support and professionally created business plans. In completing some sections prior to the award of this funding it is hoped that this will lend some credibility to the business plans for the more costly sections.

The section from Evesham to Harvington was recently unsuccessful in achieving funding from the s106 funding scheme but the group is working with the Wychavon Active Travel Officer to look at other opportunities. The owners of The Valley, are keen to encourage the route and the Lenches have put in a bid for Legacy funding.

There is a lot of enthusiasm from all of the parishes, the amenity value to the region is huge and will get people out of their vehicles. The AAGP are committed to staying in touch.

The Chair expressed the importance of the plan to the people of Evesham

5. PLACE PROJECT OFFICER REPORT

It was reported that a final draft of the town centre prospectus has been received and is expected to be launched at the end of April, and progress has been made in appointing members to the Place Board who will ultimately have responsibility for delivering the aims of the Prospectus.

Vale Park South only has 1 available unit remaining, an increase in the value of the rent achieved demonstrates that demand is now outstripping supply.

Planning Consultation for the Public Hall closed on the 17th February

Midlands Connect are hosting a Trans Midland Trade Corridor Conference in June 2022 to encourage business leaders and Members of Parliament to collaborate in promoting the need for investment in this area.

Work is being done on getting coaches into Evesham with the Vale Guides.

Enlighten Evesham Lights will not be lit during the Summer months.

6. ANTI-LITTER UPDATE

It was reported that litter picks are continuing and the Great British Spring Clean will be taking place on 26th March, meet outside the Town Hall at 10am

7. ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

It was reported by the secretary of Cycle Evesham that they are launching a project, in conjunction with the Adventure Playground, to encourage active travel and cycling in the town. From May through June groups are being encouraged to register to receive an old bicycle that can be decorated and then strategically placed around the town to create a trail to be followed. The hope is that there will be around 20 decorated bikes. The press launch will be on the 08.03.2022

8. GREENING EVESHAM FRAMEWORK REVIEW

It is to be noted that the Framework is just that and not intended to be a detailed document which will come later and that greening is something that is defined within the document.

An action Plan is to be completed and key stakeholder groups are to be invited to contribute to the appropriate sections; Transition Evesham Vale, Cycle Groups and Anti-Litter amongst others with contributions to be made.

9. REVIEW OF TOWN PLAN

Every member of the Committee is requested to take ownership of an element of the Town Plan and steer the review of that section. There are plans to hold a Review Workshop Day to enable consultation with the public and collaboration with local groups. The allocation of oversight is as follows.

Housing – Gillian Pawson

Young People – Sue Amor

Health, Exercise and Sport – Robert Hale

Community – Alan Booth

Town Centre and Tourism – Mark Goodge

Economy – Andrew Dyke

Environment – Julie Tucker

The meeting was declared closed at 7:25pm