

# Place Shaping Working Group Minutes

## Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014

#### **Councillors:**

Councillor J W Boyce (Chair)  
Councillor L A Bentley  
Councillor M Charlesworth  
Councillor L Darr  
Councillor Mrs JM Gore  
Councillor J Kaufman  
Councillor Mrs L Kaufman  
Councillor Mrs S B Morris

#### **Officers:**

Adrian Thorpe	(Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager)
Ed Morgan	(Planning Policy Officer)
Judith Sturley	(Senior Economic Regeneration Officer)
Mark Hryniw	(Town Centre Manager)
Stuart Longbottom	(Economic Regeneration Officer)

#### **1. Apologies:**

Councillor D M Carter  
Councillor R Thakor  
Anita Pathak-Mould (Head of Community)

Anne Court	(Director of Services)
Daniel Britton	(Economic Regeneration Officer)
Jamie Carr	(Planning Policy Officer)
John Dickson	(Section 151 Officer)
Kirstie Rea	(Senior Planning Policy Officer)

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#### **2. Minutes and Matters Arising**

2.1 None

#### **3. Town Centre Manager's Report**

3.1 Mark Hryniw briefed Members about the current situation in each of the Borough's three centres and also ran through his on-going projects, including information about empty retail units; shop front improvement grants; Christmas lights; events; and, markets.

3.2 Members were in agreement that having a Town Centre Manager has been positive for the Council since Mark Hryniw took up the post. Members asked a series of questions about the performance of each centre; the procedure for selecting a

contractor for the installation of the Christmas lights each year; and, issues around the subject of Markets in both Wigston and Oadby.

3.3 Mark Hyrniw left the meeting at the conclusion of the discussion about his report.

#### **4. Appointment of Joint Strategic Planning Manager for Leicester and Leicestershire**

4.1 Adrian Thorpe briefed Members on the content of this report and explained the context behind the recommendation for Members to consider supporting this appointment. Councillor Boyce also explained the context of this report from the strategic perspective.

4.2 Councillor Gore raised the issue of proportional funding and whether or not the Council should contribute an equal proportion or a proportion determined on another variable, such as population. Councillor Boyce explained that due to the strategic nature of this appointment and the remit of the post, it would be equally valuable to each authority and as such in this particular instance it is appropriate for the Council to support proportional funding for the role.

4.3 Councillor Boyce explained that at the moment, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is in a strong position in that it has an adopted Plan and its evidence base is in a strong position. However, the new Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) will inform a review of the Local Plan and the Council will need to re-establish its evidence base. Due to the complexity of Planning at a strategic level, it is advisable for all authorities in Leicestershire to work together and to reach a jointly agreed evidence base. This is where this role will prove to be vital and therefore influential to the Borough, along with all other authorities in Leicestershire.

4.4 It was agreed by all Members that in principle, this role would be supported. Adrian Thorpe and Councillor Boyce agreed to report back to Members of this group on developments concerning this post at future meetings.

#### **5. Draft Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation Document**

5.1 Adrian Thorpe briefed Members on the content of this report and explained that the report was in the early stages of development and is intended to seek Members early involvement into the preparation of the document. He went on to explain that the purpose of the Issues and Options consultation for the Local Plan is to consult Members of the public and interested stakeholders with a vested interest in the Borough, asking questions throughout the document to ascertain the content of the Local Plan before moving onto the next stage of developing the document.

5.2 Councillor Charlesworth recommended that the Council should establish a user-friendly 'summary sheet' for stakeholder to use when responding to the consultation because in its current format, there are far too many questions throughout the document to easily respond to.

5.3 Councillor Boyce agreed with this approach and added that he thought that some of the questions were very complex and it would be difficult to respond to them coherently, if they are to remain as they have been drafted.

5.4 Adrian Thorpe acknowledged and agreed with these suggestions.

## **6. Playing Pitch Strategy**

6.1 Stuart Longbottom briefed Members about the final outcomes of the Playing Pitch Strategy that the Council has commissioned and set out the options that are available to us going forward, highlighting the project that is deemed to be the primary focus for action.

6.2 The key positive to having had this piece of work done is that the Council now has the evidence base available to support any application for grant funding to support the delivery or development of sport and recreation regeneration projects across the Borough.

## **7. Investor Prospectus**

7.1 Stuart Longbottom briefed Members about the Investor Prospectus he has started to develop and set out his recommendations going forwards.

7.2 Members were extremely positive about the concept and discussed how the prospectus would deal with sites in town centres and employment areas. Councillor Boyce suggested including more about key strengths and headline organisations that are present in the Borough, including University of Leicester and other key educational providers.

7.3 Stuart Longbottom and Judith Sturley agreed to continue to work on the Investor Prospectus and to report the final version of the document to Policy, Finance and Development Committee for approval.

## **8. Any Other Business**

8.1 Councillor Darr asked if the tarmac that is being used to finish the pavements to the north and south of the public realm project in Oadby had been planned. Adrian Thorpe confirmed that it had been approved as part of the plans.

8.2 Councillor J Kaufman commented on how positive the public realm work is shaping up and that the vast majority of his constituents have been very positive about it.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

9.1 Wednesday 22 October 2014, 18:30, Committee Room, Council Offices, Wigston.

**EOM**