

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLACE SHAPING WORKING GROUP HELD AT THE
COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD, WIGSTON ON THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2018
COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor J W Boyce (Chair)

COUNCILLORS

L A Bentley
Miss A R Bond
G A Boulter
M L Darr
B Dave
K J Loydall JP

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

M Hryniw (Town Centre Manager)
E Morgan (Planning Policy Officer)
A Thorpe (Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development)

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Helen Loydall, Councillor Sharon Morris.

22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2018

Mark Hryniw provided a verbal update to Members at the request of Councillor K Loydall on the latest situation regarding the Borough's Farmers Markets, specifically in relation to the latest situation regarding Leicester City Council's Farmers Market because the same people used to also organise that market.

Adrian Thorpe responded to questions from Councillor K Loydall and Councillor J Boyce surrounding the inclusion of the Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standards as an Appendix in the emerging draft New Local Plan. Should the Inspector agree with the inclusion, once adopted, the Council will be able to apply the space standards for all sub-division of existing buildings to create net additional residential dwellings.

Councillor J Boyce and Councillor L Bentley requested a Member Training Event to be held once the New Local Plan is adopted and Development Control Committee will be expected to interpret and apply the new policies in the Plan. A training event will be scheduled for November 2018 alongside Development Control Committee (date to be confirmed), assuming that the Local Plan has been adopted by that point.

Mark Hryniw provided an update to Councillor A Bond on the latest known situation with the vacant former Co-operative store in Oadby town centre. Mark Hryniw agreed to continue to seek further updates and will verbally update Members at the next Member Working Group.

23. TOWN CENTRE WI-FI UPDATE

Mark Hryniw went through his report and explained each section in detail to Members to provide a comprehensive explanation of the latest position regarding the prospects of

installing Town Centre Wi-Fi in Wigston and Oadby. As things currently stand with available funding, it is viable in Wigston, but not viable in Oadby.

Elephant Wi-Fi has been appointed as the preferred provider.

As part of the installation in Wigston town centre, Elephant Wi-Fi has agreed to install a 3rd Wifi Point and a Geo-Sense Monitor for no cost to allow full coverage of the primary shopping area and to use Wigston as a pilot for their latest technology. They have also agreed to provide the first six months of Wi-Fi coverage for no cost.

The Council will continue to look at options for Oadby town centre and explore opportunities to generate funding to finance the implementation of similar Wi-Fi infrastructure in Oadby.

Councillor J Boyce sought clarification from Mark Hryniw about the Wi-Fi coverage zones and confirmed that he welcomed the proposed coverage area that Elephant Wi-Fi are focusing on.

Councillor K Loydall sought clarification over what the Geo-Sense Monitors are for and also of what benefit they could be in the future. Mark Hryniw explained that they are a very useful tool and one that he has been utilising for some time in his role at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The data is used to identify trends in footfall and can be particularly useful to understand when a town / street is busy or less busy. It can also be utilised to understand how positive an event is for the town, for example, the Christmas Lights Switch On events, or, the weeks when the lights are on in comparison to when they are not.

Councillor J Boyce asked Mark Hryniw if the data could be used or sold onto retailers who are wishing to understand whether an area of the town is worth investing in. Mark Hryniw confirmed that this may be an opportunity and could be explored further in the future. Councillor J Boyce requested that Mark Hryniw to give further consideration to understand more about this and if appropriate to consider implementing a business plan that seeks to utilise revenue from the Wifi data and the towns digital advertising signs to offset the initial capital costs and ongoing running costs so that they would eventually become self-funding. This would then strengthen the business case for implementation in other towns, such as Oadby.

Councillor J Boyce also sought clarification that the system would be controlled by Elephant Wi-Fi and that the appropriate risk assessments and approval from relevant services such as Leicestershire Police had been obtained. Mark Hryniw confirmed that all appropriate action had been taken and agreed to seek further confirmation from Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department to ensure that the locations for the installation of the Wi-Fi Points was all verified and agreed by relevant stakeholders.

Councillor L Bentley asked whether there were any plans to install Wi-Fi Points in South Wigston. Councillor J Boyce confirmed that there were no plans at this point in time and it would be prudent to review the business case of Wigston in the first instance, once it has been installed and been operational for an extended period of time.

24. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UPDATE REPORT

Mark Hryniw went through his report and explained each section in detail to Members to provide a comprehensive explanation of works completed to date and planned expenditure and procedures moving forwards.

Councillor K Loydall congratulated Mark Hryniw on the level of depth and the extent of the work that he has undertaken in each town since 2013. He then sought clarification on whether there was any mechanism or process where the Council could measure the impacts or benefit to traders in the level of investment in each town centres Christmas Lights. Mark Hryniw agreed that it was a good question and said that although it is difficult to categorically measure the impact, he would look to consider ways of measuring this either through seeking feedback from retail operators in each town or perhaps, in the future, by reviewing the data collected on the Geo-Sense Monitors from the Wi-fi infrastructure to be installed in Wigston.

Councillor J Boyce also requested that Mark Hryniw as Town Centre Manager looks into two further issues in each town centre and reports back to Members in due course:

- Is there an issue developing with the concentration of use Class A5 (hot food takeaways) in each town centre?
- Is there an issue with the standard and over-flowing of litter bins in each town centre?

Mark Hryniw agreed to consider and feed back to Members on both of these issues and to also liaise with relevant Officers within the Council.

Mark Hryniw and Councillor K Loydall departed at 19:40.

25. LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION (VERBAL UPDATE)

Adrian Thorpe provided a verbal update to Members on the latest position on the emerging draft New Local Plan and confirmed that the Planning Inspectorate has appointed Claire Sherratt DipURP MRTPI as the Inspector. The Examination in Public is due to commence on Tuesday 24th April 2018 at the Council's offices and it is scheduled to last for two weeks, covering a total of thirteen topics that are referred to as 'Matters' in the draft Agenda.

Adrian Thorpe also confirmed that the Council will be hosting a Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan public consultation event on the Wednesday 21st March and that the public consultation of the latest draft Strategic Growth Plan is currently scheduled to end on Thursday 5th April 2018. A leaflet publicising the Strategic Growth Plan is being sent to every household in the Borough by including it with the annual Council Tax Statement.

26. HORSEWELL LANE PAVILION (VERBAL UPDATE)

Adrian Thorpe provided a verbal update to Members on the latest position regarding this project. Alex Ward, the Council's recently appointed Economic Development Team Leader is now leading on the delivery of this project for the Council.

Alex Ward has procured the services of Faithful and Gould Ltd who are working up a design using the Project Brief that was agreed as the starting point for those drawings.

Councillor L Bentley and Councillor J Boyce requested that Members had involvement with the design process and that they are regularly updated by Alex Ward on the progress of the project. Adrian Thorpe confirmed that this would be the case and that Alex Ward would keep all key stakeholders, including Members, fully briefed and seek their views at all key milestones to ensure that the project remains on track both in terms of the delivery timescales and quality outputs.

27. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor A Bond sought a verbal update on the latest situation with the recently vacated Multi York retail unit on The Parade in Oadby. Adrian Thorpe confirmed that Mark Hryniw is seeking further information from the Landlord and Agent for that unit and that a further verbal update would be given at the next Member Working Group.

28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TBC (18:30, Committee Room).

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15 PM



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Chair
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TBC
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