

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of the External Affairs Committee

Wednesday 26 June at 7pm
Frome Medical Practice, Enos Way, Frome

Present:

Councillors: Dave Anderson; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson; Tricia Golinski; Peter Macfadyen; Mel Usher; Nick White.

Cara Honey (Mayor for Young People); Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People)

In attendance:

Gill Bawler (Mendip Family Focus Programme Manager), Geoff Pell (Missing Link), Claire Wilson (Somerset Standard), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning & Development Officer), Laura Poulton (Administration Officer)

Approx. 10 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2013/41/EAC	1 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC None was received	
2013/42/EAC	2 SHORT TALKS FROM: a. Gill Bawler, Mendip Family Focus Programme Manager Gill explained that 870 families have been identified as suitable for the programme. In Mendip, Family Focus has been launched in three phases. The first was in Street, Glastonbury and Wells. The next phase will start in September and will cover Frome where 80 families have been identified. The programme supports families for up to 12 months and one family advocate will work closely with one family to help with everything from ensuring children attend school to budgeting their income. Gill explained that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ultimate goal will be to make the programme sustainable. • Success is generally measured against the original criteria for example improved school attendance • It was difficult to provide actual figures. However they employ an exit strategy for each family to ensure success after the programme. • Part of the programme will be looking into how it would be 	

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	<p>possible to re-design some of the services to make them more efficient as well as in-seminating some of the learning into the established agencies and services.</p> <p>Cllr Usher informed Gill of FTC's work around the issue of poverty and there is now a possibility of having a centre in Frome specifically to help those affected by poverty, he asked Gill if this would be helpful to the programme. Gill was very keen for Family Focus to be a part of a centre in Frome.</p> <p>b. Geoff Pell, The Missing Link Geoff introduced the background work that The Missing Link project has been doing to establish a walking and cycling route through the town. To connect the route they have had to liaise with different land owners; MDC, Gracewell, Renaissance Land, Network Rail, FTC and a private land owner.</p> <p>He noted that a big issue for progress was the planning conditions set out by MDC and the legal delays.</p>	
<p>2013/43/EAC</p>	<p>3 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR Cllr Macfadyen opened the meeting at 8.02pm.</p> <p>Cllr Golinski proposed Cllr Macfadyen as Chair, seconded by Cllr White, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr Usher proposed Cllr White as Deputy Chair, seconded by Cllr Burgess, agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>2013/44/EAC</p>	<p>4 a. APOLOGIES Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Berry and Hooton.</p>	
<p>2013/45/EAC</p>	<p>4 b. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS A declaration was received from Cllr Dobinson who has a seat on MDC that his view on any items on this agenda as an FTC member were not necessarily those as his role as an MDC Cllr.</p> <p>Cllr Macfadyen declared a personal interest in item 8.</p>	
<p>2013/46/EAC</p>	<p>4 c. MINUTES The minutes of the External Affairs Committee meeting held on 15 May 2013 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<p>2013/47/EAC</p>	<p>5 REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS AND WHAT IS COMING UP NEXT TIME</p>	

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	<p>Cllr Golinski queried why the town centre remodeling project was still an outstanding action. The Town Clerk explained that FTC was still trying to source the funding.</p>	
2013/48/EAC	<p>6 FOR DECISION – TO APPROVE THE NEXT STEPS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory guide to development in Frome until 2028. Frome will be a front-runner for putting a plan in place as only one other town in the country has completed and adopted their plan to date.</p> <p>The plan focuses on these six main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Frome Town Centre • Employment & Enterprise - ensuring there is space for them to operate and enable small businesses to start and grow. • Housing including the option for self build sites to encourage affordable housing. • Transport & Movement • Open Space • Design <p>The EDRM informed Cllrs and the public that the aim for the public consultation of the plan to begin is 2 September 2013 which will last for six weeks.</p> <p>Cllr Usher noted that the consultation needs to be in the simplest language as possible and advertised in the most creative way to ensure wide participation.</p> <p>The recommendation was for Cllrs to agree to consult the public on the draft Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Anderson, seconded Cllr Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	PWh
2013/49/EAC	<p>7 FOR DECISION - THE DIPPY AS AN OPEN SPACE IN THE TOWN</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note progress on The Dippy to date 2. Endorse the next steps to support local people maintain the site and work with the reformed group that will evolve from the Mount Community Association. <p>Proposed Cllr Golinski, seconded Cllr White, agreed unanimously.</p>	SH
2013/50/EAC	<p>8 FOR DECISION – SUPPORT FOR FROME CARNIVAL</p> <p>The Economic Development and Regeneration Manager explained</p>	

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	<p>to Cllrs that the intention is to create a partnership with Frome Carnival.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse a contribution to Frome Carnival of £2,000 in 2013/14 from the Town Events budget. This amount to bring street performances and music acts to the Carnival (which are not part of the judged entries) and to run workshops at Frome Community College to encourage students to become involved 2. Endorse a review of the impact of this contribution with a view to entering into a longer term service agreement 3. Work with the Carnival to help achieve a financially sound footing <p>Proposed Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr White, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr Dobinson left at 8.45pm</p>	PWh
2013/51/EAC	<p>9 FOR DECISION - COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX (THE "ROBIN HOOD TAX")</p> <p>Cllr Macfadyen explained to Cllrs that the Financial Transaction Tax or "Robin Hood Tax" was a small percentage on gains, shares and bonds derivatives.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This council calls upon Government to enact the FTT and use the revenues from this measure to reverse on-going shrinkage in central grants to local councils. 2. This Council write to Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council asking them to note our support for the FTT and for they, in turn, to register their support with national government. <p>Proposed Cllr Usher, seconded Cllr Burgess, agreed by majority.</p>	PWy
2013/52/EAC	<p>10 FOR INFORMATION - PROGRESS OF THE WALKING AND CYCLING WORKING GROUP</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the progress made to date 2. Endorse the next steps of the working group: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To communicate with Frome schools and the SCC Cycling Officer about involvement in this work b. To digitise the data on Veryan Conn's hand-drawn map of walking routes across Frome to bring to the next meeting c. To collate the other known information on walking and cycling routes onto the same map to bring to the next 	

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	<p>meeting</p> <p>d. To consider how to fill important gaps in access routes throughout the town to list and prioritise at the next meeting</p> <p>e. To set up the next meeting in six weeks' time</p> <p>Proposed Cllr White, seconded Cllr Anderson, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>SH</p>
<p>2013/53/EAC</p>	<p>11 FOR DECISION - TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BWCE AND FROME ENERGY HUB</p> <p>Cllr Golinski asked how the BWCE and Converging World are working together. The Economic Development and Regeneration Manager explained that Converging World will identify renewable energy opportunities and BWCE will look into their potential as investments and act as the negotiators.</p> <p>Cllr Usher requested that the EDRM asks the Frome Energy Hub to be radical in the options they investigate. For example looking at putting voltaic cells in car parking spaces at the Frome Medical Practice to generate energy.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the instruction to BWCE to set up a new Benefit Society with responsibility for identifying and investing in renewable energy installations 2. Endorse work by The Converging World to prepare a report on potential renewable energy resources and establish an online Energy Hub at a cost of £2,500 <p>Proposed Cllr White, seconded Cllr Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>PWh</p>
<p>2013/54/EAC</p>	<p>12 FOR DECISION – SUPPORT FOR INVOLVEMENT IN PROPOSED ‘HEART OF WESSEX’ LOCAL ACTION GROUP</p> <p>A member of the public, Neil Howlett, was invited to speak. He noted that it was very important to forge links with Wiltshire and Dorset. He also expressed the Chamber of Commerce's support for the Heart of Wessex LAG.</p> <p>Cllr Usher took the opportunity to publically thank Neil Howlett for the work he has done for Frome during his time as President of the Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the application for transitional funding for the Heart of Wessex LAG 2. That authority is delegated to the Economic Development & 	<p>PWh</p>

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	<p>Regeneration Manager in consultation with the Chair of External Affairs, to negotiate a contribution towards the core costs of the LAG in 2014 up to a maximum of £2,000. Given these costs are likely to be based on research and consultation is its proposed to allocate them to the Economic and Community Research budget</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr Anderson, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2013/55/EAC	<p>13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 4 September at Frome Library</p>	
2013/56/EAC	<p>14 Because the following two items were commercially sensitive, the public and press were asked to leave</p>	
	<p>The Committee agreed that in view of the nature of these confidential items it was useful and appropriate for Cara Honey, Mayor for Young People and Alex Shingler, Deputy Mayor for Young People to remain in the room and contribute to the discussion.</p>	
2013/57/EAC	<p>15 a. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - POSSIBLE LAND ACQUISITION</p> <p>Cllrs agreed to utilise S106 money to purchase the proposed piece of land.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Usher, seconded Cllr Anderson, agreed unanimously.</p>	PWy/JW
2013/58/EAC	<p>15 b. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - POSSIBLE LAND ACQUISITION</p> <p>Cllrs agreed that the proposed piece of land at Birchill Lane adjacent to the allotment site was not suitable for acquisition at this time and would prefer to explore other options within Frome.</p>	
2013/59/EAC	<p>16 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – DISCUSSION ON THE PEOPLE'S GRANT</p> <p>Cllrs agreed for the Town Clerk to inform the only applicant for the People's Grant, PAC, of the decision to award them £5k.</p> <p>Cllrs also agreed to keep the remaining balance of £5k and to utilise it following a review of the scheme.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Usher, seconded Cllr Burgess, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>PWy</p> <p>SH</p>
2013/60/EAC	<p>17 RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.02pm

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