

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of the External Affairs Committee

Wednesday 30 April at 7pm
Saxonvale Centre, Garsdale, Frome. BA11 1RZ

Present:

Councillors: Dave Anderson; Eve Berry; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson; Tricia Golinski; Peter Macfadyen; Nick White
Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People)

In attendance:

Cllr Dickon Moore, Karen Deverell (Mendip YMCA), Caroline Wood (Frome Standard), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Anna Francis (Energy and Recycling Officer), Ruth Knagg (Community Projects Officer), Tessa Hibbert (Community Projects Officer), Laura Poulton (Administration Officer)

2 members of the public

| Minute Ref | Agenda Item | Action |
|-------------|---|--------|
| 2014/15/EAC | <p>1 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Rachel Bodle noted that the Transition Free Press was now available and to contact her at rachel.bodle@gmail.com.</p> <p>Charles Wood noted that the allocation of the s106 agreement for the Showfield should not be held up by MDC despite the ongoing issue with the transfer of the site.</p> | |
| 2014/16/EAC | <p>2 SHORT TALK FROM KAREN DEVERELL, MENDIP YMCA</p> <p>Karen Deverell is the Chief Executive Officer of Mendip YMCA.</p> <p>The organisation has supported Mendip since 1991 and is an autonomous organisation. Karen explained that Mendip YMCA has varying ways of providing support mostly to young people between the ages of 16-25 which include; working with a family mediation worker, emergency host family accommodation, resettlement support, homeless awareness in schools, deposit scheme, move on scheme, private rented sector work and a tenancy support worker.</p> <p>Karen explained that Mendip YMCA runs the Frome Foyer which consists of twelve apartments and two emergency units. In addition they have sixteen flats in Frome and can provide fifty two bedrooms across Mendip. They also run Routes Café which is place for young people to hang out and access information, advice and guidance. Karen noted that the funding for the café would come to an end in 2015.</p> | |

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| | <p>The Mendip YMCA has a lease with the Frome Youth and Community Centre which Karen explained had been successful. She noted that they were in the process of assessing whether the centre could be viable into the future.</p> <p>The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager asked Karen what the housing enquiry trend was and whether there was a need for more accommodation to respond to demand. Karen explained that affordability was becoming more of an issue and Mendip YMCA had helped people furnish flats, access food packs etc. She noted that housing benefit was relatively low in Mendip making it harder for young people to rent and there was a need to persuade social landlords i.e. Aster Homes to take on young people to allow accommodation to be freed up.</p> <p>Cllr Burgess asked if Mendip YMCA refer young people to private landlords. Karen explained that they work with eighty private landlords which had worked well partly due to the YMCA's deposit guarantee scheme.</p> <p>The Town Clerk asked what lessons had the YMCA learnt after taking on the community centre. Karen noted that it had been really exciting; they currently had eighteen different organisations working there. However it was difficult to maintain and the building needed repairs. She noted that they would like to be able to safeguard it for the future, increase the need and are in discussion with the owner, SCC, to find a way of keeping it a community resource.</p> | |
| 2014/17/EAC | <p>3 a. APOLOGIES The Chair formally opened the Council meeting at 7.35pm and apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Hooton and Usher.</p> | |
| 2014/18/EAC | <p>3 b. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS None was received.</p> | |
| 2014/19/EAC | <p>3 c. MINUTES The minutes of the External Affairs Committee meeting held on 26 February 2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> | |
| 2014/20/EAC | <p>4 AN UPDATE ON WHAT THE COUNCIL IS WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT Cllr Dobinson arrived at 7.45pm</p> <p>Cllr Macfadyen enquired about the WW1 event in August. The</p> | |

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| | <p>Administration Officer explained that she and a group had been working to relocate the statue produced by J W Singer from its current location at Tyco on the Marston Trading Estate to the Memorial Theatre to make it the focus of remembrance. The group were planning to hold an event on 3 August, the day before the official outbreak of WW1, to unveil the soldier in his new home outside the Memorial Theatre and to mark the centenary of WW1.</p> <p>Cllr Golinski enquired about the status of the Carley Development Trusts’ application to the DCLG. The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager explained that it had been refused as DCLG felt a Community Right to Build order was unsuitable for a development as big as Saxonvale. He noted that a Neighbourhood Development Order may be more appropriate and FTC would be meeting with them to discuss the next steps. DCLG had also received objections to the Carley application from neighbouring landowners.</p> <p>The EDRM noted that Allan Bennett had been appointed as the Planning and Regeneration Apprentice and would begin work on 19 May. He would be completing a course in the Built Environment at the University of the West of England.</p> | |
| <p>2014/21/EAC</p> | <p>5 FOR DECISION – UPDATE FROM THE ENERGY & RECYCLING OFFICER</p> <p>Anna Francis, Energy & Recycling Officer, introduced her areas of focus in her new role.</p> <p>The first was energy – how to reduce demand, cost and emissions. She noted she would aim to do this through large scale solar panels, links with creamery for bio diversity, tree stations, link with Fair Frome to reduce energy poverty, start insulation campaigns, link with Edventure to communicate with the community, street wide approaches to solar and insulation and working within schools.</p> <p>The second was transport – reduce fossil fuel use. Anna’s aim was to reduce private car use, investigate setting up an electric car club, car share schemes, encourage cycling and set up cycle confidence classes. She noted that she was planning a Green Energy fair on 14 September.</p> <p>The third was waste – reduce arising’s and increase diversion. Anna noted that a town that had introduced bins that were made to look like cows had increased recycling by 60%. Her other ideas were; reuse centres, clothes swaps, real nappies, reducing food waste,</p> | |

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| | <p>review at the meeting in September.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Golinski, seconded Cllr Anderson, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2014/25/EAC | <p>9 FOR DECISION – COMMUNITY TOILET SCHEME</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained the proposal to reduce the grant given to the participants of the scheme would allow them to improve promotion. He also noted that other schemes in the country have instead invested in the businesses to bring the toilets up to spec. Cllr White felt it would be ungenerous to reduce the money given to the organisations that are a part of the scheme. Cllr Burgess was unsure that a mystery shopper scheme would be looked upon favourably by the participants.</p> <p>Cllr Moore suggested the current stickers were misleading and as part of the new promotion the new stickers should make it clear that the toilet can be used for free.</p> <p>The Town Clerk, after taking on board Cllrs wishes to maintain the same level of grant, suggested he come back to the next meeting with a suggestion of which budget the additional money could come from.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the Community Toilet Scheme within the allocated budget enabling a maximum of 8 business participants to be involved 2. The level of grant remain at £500 3. Each participant entering into an agreement requires them to display new signage prominently, cover running costs and insurance and maintain their toilets to a standard to be confirmed 4. The establishment of a mechanism for feedback from the businesses and visitors 5. An assessment of the quality of the toilets being offered through quality control 6. Introduce a ‘Best Toilet’ award scheme <p>Proposed Cllr White, seconded Cllr Burgess, agreed unanimously.</p> | <p>PWy/PWh</p> <p>PWh</p> |
| 2014/26/EAC | <p>10 FOR INFORMATION – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE</p> <p>Cllr Burgess explained that he and the Planning & Development Officer had recently attended a meeting at MDC. He noted that the next stage would be for MDC to arrange a public consultation and FTC would try to encourage this to be sooner rather than later. It</p> | |

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| | was noted that the plan would be submitted to MDC at the end of July. | |
| 2014/27/EAC | 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be at 7pm on 25 June 2014, Saxonvale Centre | |

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.28pm