



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 29

2 December 2015, Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Lower Stondon

<u>Members</u>	
Pauline Hey - Chair	David Simkins
Brian Golby	Tony Welch
Clive Beckett	Tom Chevalier
Cllr Tony Brown	Mario Costa-Sa
Andy Knight	Louis Upton
<u>Secretariat</u>	
Sarah Smalley - Central Bedfordshire Council	
<u>Apologies</u>	
Cllr Castleman	Julian Clark-Lows
Jane Conway	Rosalyn Whisker
Andrew Pym	
<u>Observers</u>	
David Leverington – Central Bedfordshire Council	Caroline Romans – Central Bedfordshire Council
Keith Dove – Luton Borough Council	Gabriella Jeavons-Fellows - Central Bedfordshire Council
Bob Wallace – Borough of Bedford LAF	James Wilson - Central Bedfordshire Council

		ACTION
1	<u>Public Questions</u> There were no public questions.	
	CR advised members that she would be standing down as secretary as from this meeting following her appointment as Houghton Hall Park Project Manager. Sarah Smalley and Gaby Fellows were introduced as the new secretary's. Caroline was thanked for her hard work over the years	
2	<u>Apologies</u> See above.	

3	<p><u>Land North of Luton update</u></p> <p>James Wilson gave a presentation providing an update on the North of Luton Urban Extension (attached). He explained that CBC's development strategy had been withdrawn but this site is likely to form part of the new strategy due to its ability to help deliver the housing and growth needs of both Central Bedfordshire and Luton. The site is located within the green belt and will partially encroach on the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is adjacent to the Sundon Quarry Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and migration will be required to limit to the impact of the development. Planning applications are likely to start coming in during 2016.</p> <p>The Framework Plan shows the location of the proposed A6-M1 link road which is likely to stay as proposed, there are currently 2 'green bridges' over this link road in the plan.</p> <p>CBC is leading a bid to SEMLEP for part funding of the link road.</p> <p>TC raised concerns that the emerging plans do not show corridors for non motorised vehicles which are the forum's main priority. The forum confirmed they would like to see plans showing proposed new routes as well as existing.</p> <p>It was also raised that the rail crossing is insufficient, that there is no crossing at M1 J11 and other important links are missing.</p> <p>It was agreed that a sub group would be set up and meet early January at Priory House to come up with idealistic proposals of path locations and links to be able to have some influence over the masterplan. It was stressed that the group did not want to miss out on the opportunity of influencing the plan by being too late.</p> <p>PH, KD, TW, AK, BG, LU, MC, TC, CB, JC to sit on sub group. DL to arrange meeting room at Priory House for 6pm 6 January.</p>	DL & JLAF Sub group
4	<p><u>Minutes of previous meetings</u></p> <p>A – The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting</p> <p>B - matters arising:</p> <p>Houghton Regis North jigsaw map doesn't show existing ROW, LU thought that a plan was available somewhere showing these on CBC website.</p> <p>The sub group set up for Luton North would also look at this project.</p>	JLAF Sub group
5	<p><u>Luton Local Plan Pre-Submission</u></p> <p>DL and TB left the room.</p> <p>KD presented a draft response to the consultation which had been prepared by members of a JLAF sub group. He confirmed that some points raised by the JLAF in response to the previous consultation had already been dealt with, such as green belt.</p> <p>Some key issues still need to be addressed such as lack of connections into Stockwood Park site, the need for a multi user route at Butterfield Green and also connectivity to local green spaces from High Town and into the countryside from</p>	

	<p>Marsh Farm.</p> <p>PH asked whether enough had been said in the response about equestrian use, all were happy that there was.</p> <p>All were happy with the draft response presented. JLAF secretary to submit response</p>	<p>JLAF Secretary</p>
6a	<p><u>Luton ROWIP consultation and feedback</u></p> <p>KD explained that the consultation had been delayed from its expected start date in late October but it is expected to start by mid December. It will run for 12 weeks until just before Easter 2016 and is due to go to Executive for approval in April.</p> <p>A response from JLAF would be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The main consultation is about the updated RoWIP. However it will also include a review of the existing RoWIP (presented to the JLAF in July) and a strategy for updating the Definitive Map and dealing with the Excluded Area. In relation to the latter, Luton plan to look at easy paths to add at first over next 12-18 months, and to look at more complex ones later on. This will result in a phased approach to updating the Definitive Map.</p> <p>The consultation will also include a questionnaire asking what people's priorities are.</p> <p>LU, MCS, PH and BG volunteered to look at the consultation and put together key points before next meeting.</p>	<p>LU, MCS, PH and BG</p>
6b	<p><u>Update on CBC 2016-17 budget situation</u></p> <p>DL advised he did not have a clear picture of next year's budget at present. Cuts to revenue are expected but it is unknown how much and still waiting on confirmation of capital budget. DL agreed to circulate when more information is available, likely to be mid January.</p> <p>CB pointed out that ROW only represents one element of the forum's interest and they should also take into account CBC sites budgets. It was suggested that someone should represent the sites team on the forum.</p> <p>ROW's trial movement into the Highways team was also discussed as the team are under pressure to make an earlier decision on whether to stay in highways or move to Leisure, Libraries and Countryside, rather than after the 12 month trial ends in early July 2016. The forum want to write to Marcel Coffait to state concerns with decision being made early as teams haven't had time to fully integrate and LLC structure is still not fully in place.</p> <p>Concern was raised by the forum that the ROW responsibilities -of the team may be diminished if they stay within highways, and also that the suggestion that the team could sell services may mean reduced personnel available for work in CBC.</p> <p>TB stressed that these sorts of concerns should be addressed via the official budget consultation which is due to start 23 December and will run until approx. 22 February.</p> <p>CB agreed to draft letter in response to any proposed cuts. This should request details of current budget and also the proposed budget for next year. Also need to</p>	<p>DL</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p> <p>CB/JLAF Secretary</p>

	raise concerns regarding resources and manpower. Forum should be proposing that the budget is not cut from last year's, but increased.	
7	<p><u>Any other notified business</u></p> <p>Bob Wallace talked about the Local Nature Partnership which was established 2 years ago. The group's interest is in the natural environment in Bedfordshire and encouraging people to reconnect with nature. Natural England & Defra are involved in the partnership and wanted JLAFs involvement as well. BW represents both our JLAF and Bedford LAF.</p> <p>One of the projects of the partnership is to develop a toolkit which is to be shared with developers at pre-app stage. DL advised that his team had just finished a similar document working with our planners and agreed to share with BW.</p> <p>The second project revolves around open spaces, heath and wellbeing. Heath professionals are being encouraged to give 'Social prescriptions' to tap into the benefits of the outdoors, walking and other outdoor leisure activities on wellbeing. They are looking to get GP's involved via events in 6-7 months time. Bob mentioned that Jonathan Woods was working on a project with the Sustainable Healthcare Team. PH and CR agreed to try and find this work to pass onto BW.</p> <p>BW also mentioned the Lets Go website which he runs. It is run by volunteers and historically has received funding from BBC and CBC of £1K p/a each. CBC have removed their funding from this year due to budget restraints.</p> <p>The website has been going for 13 years and receives 5700 hits per month. BW advised that the website has around 200 walks in Central Beds as opposed to our website which holds approx. 12 walk leaflets.</p> <p>He asked who he should make a case to regarding funding, it was agreed that this should initially be Jill Dickinson.</p>	<p>DL</p> <p>PH & CR</p> <p>BW</p>
8	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Wednesday 2 March 2016, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, Luton (venue TBC by Keith Dove).</p>	<p>KD & JLAF secretary</p>