



Shepton 21 Regeneration Partnership
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Management Committee Minutes October 28th 2008

Management Committee Meeting

Zena Pollard, Alan Stone, Guy Braga, Chris Inchley, Margaret Robinson, Dave Brown, Paul Hooper, Mike Perry, Janet Kinison, Sonia Pike, Ian Jarmaine

Apologies for absence

Lorraine Pratten
Jo Christoforides
Rob Gilderthorp

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

A warm welcome was extended to Dave Brown who introduced himself as having recently taken voluntary redundancy after 34 years as a printer. His primary focus is on outdoor work, and he has done courses in dry stone walling and hedge laying. He does work for National Trust, with the Beacon Hill Woods Society and The Mendip Group.

Dick Skidmore will be returning as our MDC representative.

MATTERS ARISING

Crematorium

The map of Old Wells Road did not show the proposed site of the Crematorium which is to be at the junction with Ridge Rd on the Croscombe side.

Facelift

Mike Perry has been seeing various shops. Some coming on board, but it is slow.

Better Business

Alan reported a successful event which was generally felt to be an improvement on the last one. It is intended they continue.



Youth Group

Bought three computers and a screen for £100. A flat screen purchased from Microchipz. MP to liaise with the Youth Worker and network engineer to install.

MP reported that the Baptist pastor is keen on music evenings for the young people, but there will need to be some supervision for which funding will be necessary. MP to investigate.

Heritage Fair

A great success. Over 500 people, representing a steady flow of visitors, visited the fair, and over £1500 was raised for St Margaret's Hospice by tours of Jon Maine's Merchant's House. Zena said one stall holder she knew had three leads from the show within a few days.

The Market Place was pleasantly busy as a result. More of the same!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Shepton in Bloom

Zena, Margaret and Mike met with Shepton in Bloom who were somewhat disheartened initially but later more optimistic.

We agreed to investigate payments not being made, and it seems that some had a reason for not paying and some have paid it was thought had not.

There is to be a planting session; date to be arranged.

MP is to make them a free website.

Academy

Now has charitable status! Can do more in the community, and is looking for ways to work with other groups.

Town Centre Task Group - Enhanced Market

Some success but a long way to go. Nov 7th is the next enhanced market. A lot of work has gone into attracting more stall holders and increased footfall.

The artisan baker who promised to attend says he now cannot because of the financial climate.

MP to get in touch with baker in Chewton Mendip. Alan suggested Richard Culver or John Alvis for a cheese stall. MP to contact. Also Orchard Pig for cider and apple juice.



TOWN TWINNING

The meeting voted that Town Twinning should now officially be a task group of S21. As such, they are covered by our public liability insurance.

HISTORIC PLAQUES

Mike to get update from Paul about progress.

LINKS

There are sensitivities about trumpeting progress on this, partly to do with land ownership and permission. Please be aware there has to be a low key approach.

The route will always be completed in sections. Currently, the cycle path ends by underpass at Dulcote. Angela Yeoman owns the land up to the recycling plant, and it is possible the track will on the verge, into the entrance of the first quarry or along the old line.

When it gets to the recycling site, it will go around the LHS and then along the old line.

It will come out at the back of West Shepton Playing field, along the embankment, and then possibly by Ellis and Ellis and underneath the old bridge.

The Strawberry Line now has a website at <http://www.thestrawberryline.co.uk>.

EAST SOMERSET LINE

Similar sensitivities apply. Drawings are being made at the moment, and then a round table meeting.

CATEC

There are two employed consultants: Roger Timm and Partners, who have been reporting on the social and economic environment, plotting and reporting on the likely need, and Fielden Clegg Bradley Studios, Architects (FGB Studios) who have been doing the design work. (They recently won the award for Private Housing Architect of the Year. Cf <http://www.fcb-studios.com/>)

There are several options, ranging in price from under £1m to £5m .

The Town Council's primary need is for a new town hall. Providing there is money to do it (a central issue) CATEC can provide that as one element of a combined space which has extra facilities – youth, community, business office space, incubator space.



The Town Council have £200k secured. If they go ahead with a new town hall without the extra facilities, then there will only be a local government loan and they will not qualify for other funding. The likely cost of a stand alone town hall would be £600k that's all.

The situation in the local area is that the main employment still manufacturing. There are a number of major businesses, but the majority are below 5 employees. Migrant workers account for a lot of the labour force.

There are a lot 'hard to reach' people who are not currently catered for. Whitstone and Strode's plans are extensive, but won't necessarily help this group. Their need is for a single drop-in advice place helping them to help themselves.

The RDA funded the two studies. At the time, they didn't say no to capital funding, but, while historically they have funded exactly such projects, at present they have axed this type of funding completely. However, it is very likely another funding stream will come on line, particularly as there will almost certainly be an attempt by government to spend its way out of recession.

There is a possibility, no more at this stage, of Big Lottery money.

The last meeting agreed that FGB Studios should develop a design that will allow for phased building. If there is no capital funding available, the town hall may be built separately but with provision for stage two, the other facilities.

It is felt that it is vital to have these reports ready for when new funding comes on stream – without them, no money! This is a very different situation to the swimming pool, where all the consultants said there was no need. With CATEC, there is a clear need.

The report will be published in draft on 21st November, with a presentation on November 26th.

CHRIS INCHLEY

Chris suggested a meeting of people who want to help young people.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The meeting was asked to read the report provided by Ruth Morgan, criticise and get it to Mike in time for him to submit it to Ruth. Mike will ask her for a week's extension.

There are lots of mistakes in the report that badly need correcting, but Guy's feeling is that there is an opportunity to work up something that has real meaning and defines what we want for Shepton, building on the work to date.

The Sustainable Communities Act is likely to be very important. Mike will circulate details.



Sara Skirton, the Community Planning and Consultation Officer is very willing to meet..

Guy and Mike will work on an action plan.

AOB

Guy and Dave are to meet about LINKS

Guy and Mike will chase up the signage. The plan is to go walkabout with Ian Jarmaine and then report to others with a coherent plan.

Lighting seems to have dropped off the radar, particularly lighting the alleyways. The Police have said that they are not in favour of lighting them, but the meeting was very strongly of another opinion. (!)

Report that was done went to Graham about a year ago, and we need to find out why it died a death. This time of year it is dark when shops are still open.

Alan Stone proposed that Mike Perry's position as self employed admin assistant/secretary be confirmed. The meeting agreed.

Chris will be meeting with the cricket club who don't have a home to see about a new one.

Sonia reported that Awards for All have run out of money, and £10k is needed for CAB's move.

Zena informed the meeting that Somerset Community Ventures Trust have £20k to spend on vulnerable older groups. Thinking caps on please.

There was discussion about their being a grant available for play equipment which would enable Hillmead to have a play area, but there is no open space suitable. It was suggested it might work for Ridgeway. Contact Stuart Finney.

Janet Kinison mentioned that there will be a concert in late January by Youth With a Future (YWAF) in the parish church.

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 25th November. Guy to book. (Dave's away, also Alan.)