

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 July 2005, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Compton (Chair) Councillors Copping, Mrs Edwards, Holland, Mrs Knight and Short.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Hodgetts.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Blacklock.

265. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

266. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2005 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

267. **TOURISM**

The Committee considered an update report on the Scrutiny of Tourism from Customer Information and Advice/Economic Development which outlined the work of the Tourism Working Party and sought to gain support for the group to monitor progress on the issues that had been raised, along with the South Warwickshire Tourism proposed review, with a view to reporting back further to the October meeting.

The Working Party also needed representation from at least two members of the Committee in order to progress the matter further with Stratford District Council

RESOLVED that

- (1) a further report be presented to the Committee in October 2005; and
- (2) Councillors Mrs Edwards and Mrs Hodgetts continue as members of the Tourism Working Party along with Councillor Holland who would confirm once he had consulted with colleagues.

268. TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENTS

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Planning and Engineering which updated members on the policy and practice relating to the assessment of planning applications/notifications for telecommunications development.

Councillor Mrs Knight expressed her difficulty at gaining access to the website as detailed in Appendix A, item 3 on page 7. Members Services' assured her that they would identify the correct website and inform all members of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and a further report be submitted to the Committee in six months time.

269. THE WARWICK MARKET PLACE REVIEW

The Committee received a report from the Warwick Market Place Working Party which was presented by the Warwick Town Centre Manager, Adrian Field. The report detailed the work undertaken by the Working Party which had been set up to consider the decisions, planning, consultation, budgeting, construction and other operational issues relating to the major capital scheme undertaken at Warwick Market Place in 1999 by the District Council and the economic and environmental impacts arising from it.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the findings of the report be made available on the website;
- (2) all parties who submitted representations should receive a letter advising them of the further consultation period on the findings;
- (3) the views of the Warwick Area Committee be invited;
- (4) a further summary report with recommendations be presented to the Committee primarily on the matters where the Council is the responsible authority, prior to submission to the Executive in December;
- (5) all those who have submitted representations should be thanked for their contributions and informed that any further views would be welcomed; and
- (6) the Warwick Town Centre Manager be thanked for a thorough and concise report.

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270. CAR PARKING

The Committee were requested to appoint two Councillors to work with the Amenities Manager, Ian Coker, to undertake a review of car parking as set out within the Committee's work Programme.

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs Compton and Short be appointed to undertake the review.

271. EXECUTIVE – MONDAY 25 JULY 2005 (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)

The Committee reviewed the reports on the Executive agenda for the meeting to be held on Monday 25 July 2005 which had a significant environmental or economic impact.

As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item Number 7 – Housing Needs Study

The Committee supported the recommendations especially with regard to the Planning remit and looked forward to the study coming back to them as soon as possible.

Agenda Item Number 9 – Business Unit Incubator Scheme in Althorpe Street Leamington Old Town and Refurbishment of Railway Arches off Court Street Car Park

The Committee strongly supported the recommendations in the report.

General Report – Agenda Item (A) – Restructure of Kenilworth Town Centre Management Initiatives

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

General Report – Agenda Item (B) – Tanyard Stream Flood Alleviation Proposals

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

272. PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as set out below.

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Minute Nos.	Para Nos.	Reason
894	1	Information relating a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office-holder, former office-holder or applicant to become an office-holder under, the authority. [but given the information must relate to the person in the capacity of the description]

273. EXECUTIVE – MONDAY 25 JULY 2005 (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)

The Committee reviewed the confidential reports on the Executive agenda for the meeting to be held on Monday 25 July 2005 which had a significant environmental or economic impact.

As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item Number 14 – Forward Strategy for Regenesis

The Committee noted the report and supported the recommendation in 1.1. They commented that it had been a well managed scheme and they were pleased to note that the work would be continuing as it was a good model for replication across the District.

274. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Work Programme for 2005/06 and received verbal updates from Members on the progress made to date.

Councillor Copping made a verbal presentation detailing the Health and Wellbeing Reporting Structure and detailed the topics that were due to be covered.

RESOLVED that

(1) the Work Programme as submitted be confirmed, except for the following:

- (a) the completion date for the Energy Management review be moved to October 2005;
- (b) a re-start date of August 2005 be given to the Car Parking review with a view to completion being January 2006;
- (c) the Health Policy review completion be moved to February 2006;

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- (d) two Councillors be appointed to the Historic Buildings Grants Scheme at the next meeting of the Committee;
 - (e) Councillors Mrs Compton and Short be appointed to the Town Centre Management Review once they have completed the work on the Car Parking Review; and
- (2) the committee found that with only seven members the work load was very high. The Chairman stated that she would raise this matter at the CMT meeting on 28 July 2005 to enquire whether other members from the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee might consider joining in Task and Finish investigations.

275. SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Committee considered which decisions taken by the Executive they would like to scrutinise.

RESOLVED that due to its heavy workload, none of the decisions taken by the Executive be scrutinised by the Committee at present but that it continues to monitor the list.

(Meeting ended at 8.30 pm)