



NOTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2017

Held at 7 pm in Council Chamber B, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors T Combellack (Chairman), B Buschman, J Donoghue, M J Edwards, R A Inglis, K A Khan, Mrs M M Males (substitute for Councillor A Pell), F A Purdue-Horan, J E Thurman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors J E Cottee and R G Upton.
1 member of the public

OFFICERS PRESENT:

C Evans	Economic Growth Manager
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
V Nightingale	Constitutional Services Officer
C Prendergast	National Management Trainee
C Saxton	Economic Growth Officer
C Taylor	Community Development Manager

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors A L R A Pell

19. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

20. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2016 were accepted as a true record. Following a question the Executive Manager - Communities stated that he would contact Mr Berrill regarding the updated postcode map. In respect of the comments for Parkwood Leisure the Community Development Manager stated that all comments had been presented to the company; it was noted that these had been positively received.

21. Economic Growth Update

The Economic Growth Manager and Economic Growth Officer presented a report which outlined the work undertaken by the team since the Group last considered the item in July 2015. The Group received a presentation which outlined the priorities for 2015/16. These included submitting final business cases to secure the Growth Deal funding for 2016/17 and 2017/18; identifying projects for inclusion in the investment strategy; developing the business pages on the website; implementing the Construction Industry Training Board approach on developments and to extend the remit of the Cotgrave Employment Partnership to ensure that other development sites have

employment plans and residents were upskilled. With regard to the website officers explained that, due to capacity issues, this had been delayed, however, with this was now being addressed.

The Economic Growth Manager informed the Group that the statistics for the Borough were healthier than other areas of the County. There were 5,525 active businesses which was an increase of 1,235 since 2005. It was noted that there had been 1,185 business births during the year which compared favourably to the 585 in the previous year. Within Rushcliffe 44.6% of businesses survived for five years or more and that the majority had up to four employees; with only fifteen having 250+. She was pleased to say that unemployment had been decreasing since 2011 with the number of unemployed young people being the lowest in the County. With regard to qualifications 52% of Rushcliffe residents had a degree, or equivalent, with only 2.9% having no qualifications.

The Group was reminded that the Council had established Growth Boards in West Bridgford and Bingham/Radcliffe on Trent in 2015 to work alongside the Cotgrave Growth Board; it was agreed that a Board would be established in East Leake with a first meeting being held in May or June 2016. It was noted that these Boards fed into the Strategic Growth Board. A retail study had been commissioned for West Bridgford, Bingham, Radcliffe on Trent and East Leake and a shop front improvement scheme had been established. The Group was informed that Cotgrave had not been included due to the work that was currently being undertaken as part of the Cotgrave Masterplan.

The West Bridgford Growth Board was focussing on the Tudor Square area and had identified the need for a masterplan to join Central Avenue and Gordon Road to improve the shopping experience. Commissioners had been appointed to assist with the communication and consultation process.

In Bingham the Growth Board was working on a plan for the market square and consultants had been appointed to undertake work on a masterplan for Radcliffe on Trent. With regard to infrastructure officers were working with representatives from Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent on a business case for the inclusion of increased train stops at Radcliffe on Trent and a disabled access bridge at Bingham in the franchise documentation for the Poacher Line.

In respect of Cotgrave fifteen light industrial units would be completed in summer 2017; with shop improvements and a new multi-service centre being completed in Spring 2018. It had been recognised that the work would cause disruption to the existing businesses and officers were working with Cotgrave Town Council to start a business club which would offer support.

The Group was informed that the Council had been awarded £6.25 million Growth Deal 2 funding in 2016 which could be drawn down once work had begun on site. Councillors were told that £1.8 million had been drawn down for the employment land and £1.2 million would shortly be secured of the Town Centre work. The Authority had been part of a funding bid for Growth Deal 3 allocations which had been led by Nottinghamshire County Council for town centre improvements; it was anticipated that the amount of funding would be announced soon. The Group was informed that the Council had applied for

funding from Highways England, Nottinghamshire Pre Development Fund and the Digital Growth Programme. With reference to the Bingham site the Executive Manager - Communities explained that funding had been allocated for improvements to the Cardyke and that it was anticipated that the Crown Estate would be announcing the lead developer for the site in the next few weeks.

Councillors were informed of the engagement with key stakeholders including the D2N2 Growth Hub which was holding an event for businesses. Officers also worked with the Rushcliffe Business Partnership, Mipim and officers from neighbouring authorities.

In conclusion the Economic Growth Manager informed the Group of their priorities for 2017/18, which included the establishment of the East Leake Growth Board, finalising business cases for future funding, working with developers to bring forward strategic employment sites, rural broadband and assisting to deliver the N2 growth strategy. Councillors were also informed of the Careers and Enterprise Company initiative which was a national initiative to improve career guidance in schools; this involved a local business person would be linked with each school to take on an advisor/champion role. Following a question, officers stated that this initiative had come about following new OFSTED guidance around careers advice in schools and that it complemented the work undertaken by YouNG, but was not a duplication.

Following a question about business units, officers explained that the Council's industrial units' occupancy rates were higher than the private sector. Officers agreed to investigate this further and provide Councillors with further information.

In respect of local people being employed on development sites officers explained that developers of major sites produced an employment and skills plan, which was linked to the Construction Industry Training Board's framework. Officers worked closely with Central College and the developers to ensure that opportunities were available for local people and work experience for young people. Developers also requested that their subcontractors were aware of these aspirations. The Economic Growth Officer stated that on the Cotgrave development five local people had been given an apprenticeship. She said that it had been a learning process for both officers and developers and that there was commitment from the developers to provide more opportunities.

With regard to the Cotgrave development officers stated that they and the Council's property services team were working with the shop keepers during the development of the Town Centre and the fifteen new industrial units. It was noted that there was some interest to move into the new units.

The Group considered the work of the West Bridgford Growth Board to establish a masterplan for Central Avenue, Tudor Square and Gordon Road. It was noted that there were six other shopping areas in West Bridgford and the Group suggested that officers considered how these areas could be made more cohesive and pleasurable, for example providing flower displays.

Agreed that the Group:

- a) Endorse the actions and priorities proposed for the coming year; and
- b) Recognise the work officers are doing to progress this strategic priority within the resources available.

22. **Leisure Facilities Strategy**

The Community Development Manager presented the final report of the Group's consideration of the Leisure Facilities Strategy 2017 – 2027, which had been an on-going piece of work for the Group since June 2016. He stated that the Group had considered information on the supply and demand of leisure facilities in the area and had agreed, and considered the results of, a consultation exercise with key stakeholders, including indoor and outdoor sports clubs. Officers had attended two parish forum events to gain further information on the facilities available and to consult with the parish councils and parish meetings. Officers had also undertaken a survey of the secondary school provision and collected data on leisure provision in the neighbouring seven local authority areas, including when these facilities had been built/refurbished. He highlighted the draft Strategy was a working document and explained that this was with the Communications Team to finalise the formatting, to improve the pictures and to ensure that it was easy to read. The key elements of the document included the Council's vision for leisure, the guiding principles and strategic objectives.

The Group felt that the vision was short and to the point and welcomed the fact that it emphasised the health aspect of leisure, which was part of the Council's commitment to work with health partners.

With regard to the strategic objectives, it was felt that the phrase 'ongoing revenue efficiencies' was not plain English and it was suggested that it should be removed. It was also felt that the word 'strong' should also be removed from 'strong evidence of need' as this was subjective. Councillors also felt that the description of the Arena should also be rewritten. The Executive Manager - Communities highlighted that the present Strategy had made significant revenue savings and that this needed to continue in the proposed Strategy. He also stated that there would always have to be evidence of need to show why the Council was investing in a project. Officers agreed to reconsider the wording.

The Group considered the more detailed strategic objectives contained in the draft Strategy. It was noted that the proposal was to retain the five leisure centres and to ensure that they were fit for the future. Officers explained that Bingham Leisure Centre was a priority for capital investment and that identified work that needed to be undertaken to maintain/improve the other centres would be included in the Council's medium to long term financial plans.

In respect of strategic objective two the Community Development Manager explained that this could not be finalised until the cricket season had begun and the pitches could be audited after they had been played on a number of times. The Group felt that the Strategy was for the whole of Rushcliffe and therefore it should be future proofed and be reworded to state across the Borough and not pick out individual areas as this could alter over the life of the

document; for example the skate park at Radcliffe on Trent. The Group suggested that objective two should read 'support partners and the parishes to deliver the priority projects within the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Following a question, the Group was informed that the contract with Parkwood Leisure was scrutinised by the Performance Management Board, which considered the company's performance against the strategic objectives set. The Executive Manager - Communities reminded the Group that the present Strategy had been originally to reduce the Council's facilities from six leisure centres to three but that this was subsequently revised to the provision of five leisure centres.

Councillors asked if the document should include reference to the fact that the Council was in competition with the private sector. It was acknowledged that they both catered for different sectors of the market and that without private facilities there would be a huge strain on the Council's provision. Officers agreed to consider if references should be included in the document.

The Group welcomed the fact that the GP referral scheme was being re-launched but queried the statement 'based on Clinical Commissioning Group need, establish local connections ...' The Community Development Manager stated that each geographical area had different local priorities and opportunities, therefore it was not appropriate to take a blanket approach to the scheme but to work closely with practices.

It was noted that the fifth objective in respect of children's play and allotments had been carried forward from the current Strategy; however, it was felt that a short explanation should also be included within the body of the Strategy.

The Group commended officers on the work that had been undertaken to produce an excellent document. It was particularly welcomed as it would be very beneficial when officers negotiated S106 agreements. The Executive Manager - Communities stated that the production of a leisure facility strategy was not a statutory duty for local authorities and that it evidenced the commitment of the Council to meet the objectives set in the document.

AGREED that the Group:

- a) had provided comments on the draft Strategy;
- b) approved the draft Strategy for wider consultation (subject to amendments arising from the meeting); and
- c) delegated authority to the Executive Manager - Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and the Chairman of the Community Development Group to make final amendments to the draft Strategy arising from the consultation prior to recommendation to Cabinet.

23. **Work Programme**

The Group considered, and agreed, its work programme. It was noted that the Group would start scrutinising the YouNG initiative at its next meeting.

Councillors asked that an update on rural broadband should be added to the programme and a review of the public spaces protection order. The Executive Manager - Communities agreed to investigate when the Order had come into effect and ensure that the item was considered at an appropriate time.

Date of Meeting	Item
1 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YouNG • Work Programme
22 August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme
21 November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Action Sheet Community Development Group - Tuesday 21 February 2017

Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible
20. Notes of the Previous Meeting	The Executive Manager - Communities to contact Mr Berrill in respect of the updated postcode map.	Executive Manager - Communities
21. Economic Growth Update	a) Officers to provide further information in respect of the industrial units occupancy rates b) Officers to consider the possibility of making small improvements to the other six shopping areas in West Bridgford.	Economic Growth Manager Economic Growth Manager
22. Leisure Facilities Strategy	Officers to consider rewording the document to remove any jargon, omit subjective wording and to make the document future proof.	Community Development Manager
23. Work Programme	Include an update on rural broadband and a review of the public spaces protection order into the Group's work programme.	Constitutional Services

**Response Sheet
Community Development Group - Tuesday 21 February 2017**

Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible	Response
20. Notes of the Previous Meeting	The Executive Manager - Communities to contact Mr Berrill in respect of the updated postcode map.	Executive Manager - Communities	
21. Economic Growth Update	<p>a) Officers to provide further information in respect of the industrial units occupancy rates</p> <p>b) Officers to consider the possibility of making small improvements to the other six shopping areas in West Bridgford.</p>	<p>Economic Growth Manager</p> <p>Economic Growth Manager</p>	<p>Figures for Quarter 4 2016/17 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBC owned units 98.34% • Privately owned units 94.84% <p>West Bridgford Growth Board needs to focus on its current central work programme which has been agreed by the Strategic Growth Board. This is likely to take 12 to 18 months, it could then potentially focus on other areas.</p>
22. Leisure Facilities Strategy	Officers to consider rewording the document to remove any jargon, omit subjective wording and to make the document future proof.	Community Development Manager	
23. Work Programme	Include an update on rural broadband and a review of the public spaces protection order into the Group's work programme.	Constitutional Services	