

BICESTER VISION

Meeting	BICESTER VISION FULL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
Present	Attached separately
Apologies	Attached separately
Date of meeting	Thursday 24 th June
Venue	Cherwell Innovation Centre, Heyford Park
Circulation	All partners
Date of next meeting.	Tuesday 21 st September at 9.30am

<p>The meeting was hosted by Bicester Innovation Centre. BL thanked Lilian Bannister for her hospitality and told partners a little about the Innovation Centres.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the new Mayor, Cllr Richard Mould, the new Principal of BCC, Jason Clarke and Alison Pexton the Communications Officer at BCC</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as true record.</p>	
<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>CC said that there had been a question by JL about surveys on traffic movements in the town. He had looked into this and no work has previously been done on this. He did not think that this was something OCC would be looking to fund in the near future. They questioned whether Bicester Village might intend to do this work in the near future</p>	CH/MM/CC
<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>BL commented that since writing his report he had received assurances from the leader of CDC, Barry Wood, that he was championing the Eco Bicester town project.</p> <p>CC commented on BL's remarks about OCC's objections to the Evergreen 3 Project. He wished to confirm that OCC had some minor objections that were likely to be resolved but they had been advised to put in a formal objection. BTC and Bicester Village confirmed that they had done the same.</p> <p>BL said that AS had asked him to attend the Public Enquiry to support the project and he asked for the approval of all partners in doing this. There were no objections.</p>	BL
<p>Manager's Report</p> <p>Partners supported the idea of a Literary Festival in the town in 2011. MM suggested working with the TIC to promote.</p> <p>RF reported that the project to list all clubs and societies for young people is nearly complete. Jason Clarke suggested that a Fresher's Fair event could be organised to bring these groups together and promote them to young people. There was also discussion about how empty units in Crown Walk might be used to promote this activity.</p> <p>DP said that the Carnival was a showcase for all of Bicester's clubs. She also suggested that we have early talks with Apollo about using</p>	RF to progress RF to progress

<p>their foyer area to promote Bicester activities for young people.</p>	
<p>Update on plans for NW Bicester – Eco Bicester MH said that the Strategic Delivery board is creating an agreed Vision for Bicester in consultation with all partners. This should ensure eco standards are embedded in the town as a whole. The next meeting is in mid July and MH will ensure the Vision is shared amongst Bicester Vision partners. CDC's core strategy is nearing completion. The Government is now intending to abolish the SE Plan and therefore CDC will be able to review the number of houses needed in the district. DP said that she felt there was a lack of marketing for Eco Bicester. She had hoped to see environmental businesses invited to relocate to the town. She expressed concern that the first tranche of houses could be built without any jobs for them.. MH said that the Eco team were not quite ready for this stage yet but it would be soon. They had hoped that a SEEDA rep would be part of the team but this now looks less likely. There is an Eco Employment strategy board on 9th July at which this issue would be discussed. RF said that she is working with representatives from CDC and OCC to help in the formation of a Green Bicester community group.</p> <p>MH reported that 40-50 people were involved in the P3Eco workshops to discuss the plans for the town. As well as these workshops there were public consultation events that were well attended. Many constructive comments were received. The planning team had been impressed with the work that had gone into the pre-application work. A summary of the workshop findings has been produced and will be circulated to all partners.</p> <p>MH confirmed that the money already received from Government would not be clawed back and CDC is still optimistic that there will be further funds available. She said that they had been asked by the local media why CDC were still planning on building this number of homes when they don't have to and has replied that it is still part of the overall plan for Bicester's future growth.</p>	<p>MH to share</p> <p>BL to attend RF to progress</p> <p>RF to action</p>
<p>Town Centre Regeneration MH confirmed that there is still one small legal point to be agreed on before sign off. She warned partners that they would shortly hear that there is a recommendation to CDC members that they use their CPO powers. This is a two stage process in which the landowners are first told that the council is considering using CPO. This would then be followed up with the legal process if things do not move on.</p>	<p>CDC</p>
<p>Countryside Properties LS confirmed that work on the Kingsmere site has now started. She invited all partners to the official opening ceremony on 7th July. The first phase of the development is 95 units of which 10% are affordable housing. This is being delivered by Bovis Homes and Bromford Housing. They anticipate these units will be available for</p>	

<p>sale in Spring 2011. Countryside Properties (Bicester) Ltd are a joint venture company of which Countryside Properties are a partner.</p>	<p>All partners invited to attend</p>
<p>Bicester Links Project – enhancing the pedestrian link between Bicester Village and Bicester Town and encouraging visitors to use the town’s restaurants. MM updated partners that the wall has now been built and there would be an official ribbon cutting ceremony in mid July. RF said that work is progressing on the related works including signage, the map and poster that Bicester Vision is producing as part of the project.</p>	<p>RF to progress</p>
<p>Traffic Advisory Committee DP said that she thought the traffic had been slightly better over the second BH weekend. MM said that there had been a series of meetings with TVP and they had put measure in place to encourage more use of the off site park and ride facilities at BCC at Bicester North station. She reported that the new car park should be open on 21 July and would be used by the Village at weekends with 50/50 use shared with rail passengers during the week. LS reported that he has requested that Highways develop a shared register of actions and outcomes so we can start to measure what works. BL asked that partners have access to that information.</p>	<p>LS/CC to share</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Action Group – Bicester NAG RF told the group about this very active community group. Bicester Vision has recently co-sponsored a leaflet that was distributed to all homes to tell them about the NAG and ask them about priorities in their neighbourhood. Reassuringly the biggest priority in all parts of town is litter and the group are working on some initiative to tackle this. We are also working on initiatives around Young People’s activities, Anti Social Behaviour, Parking and Speeding.</p>	<p>RF to progress</p>
<p>Jason Clarke – Bicester Community College Jason gave an interesting presentation about BCC. He discovered early on that there had been 47,000 hits on the BCC website looking for information about him. He has now started a blog that can be seen on the school website. Despite many rumours about a uniform change, no decision has been made and he intends to consult with the wider school community before reaching one. He intends to change the motto of the school from Inspire and Achieve to ‘Aspire and Attain’ and he explained the reasoning behind that decision. He is keen to develop sustainable relationships with local businesses and wants to ensure that the school is producing young people who are able to deliver what local businesses require. The Year 7 intake is busy although not full and the 6th Form has seen increased numbers. He extended an invitation to all Bicester Vision partners to visit the school at any time to see what they are doing.</p>	<p>All partners</p>

He also spoke about his involvement with the heads of the local primary schools.

Round the Table

CDC – MH said that there is an important meeting of the Executive on 12 July to discuss the way forward prior to the Comprehensive Spending Review in September. The council has been looking at worst case scenarios in terms of budget cuts. CDC is lucky in that it relies only on a basic government grant as opposed to other councils who receive many different grants to deliver services.

OCC – LS reported that the county council had a similar meeting scheduled in July and they would be looking for £10million cuts in the current year. He was unsure where these cuts will hit but they would be looking across the board.

BL commented that there was some concern about future funding for the DMO.

BTC – DP reported that the town council were not likely to be able to pick up the costs for extras and they would be looking for other ways to fund activities in the future. She reported that she thought the Eco Bicester workshops were excellent. The town council also reported that their events programme had kicked off but that numbers for the Proms event had been dramatically reduced.

Bicester Hotel – RB reported that business is good with 86% occupancy – which is higher than average. As the demand is good they are hoping to increase bedstock in the near future. They are also extending the Spa and the plans for the Equestrian Centre are still going forward.

Bicester Garrison – RG thanked partners for attending the recent Beating the Retreat event in Caversfield. He said that the army's focus is to provide a firm base with a good environment for soldiers to live in between tours. He said that partnership work was essential to deliver this as it includes medical, dental, housing, schools, etc. DSDA are to lose their agency status and coming back into military rule with Air Vice Marshall Matt Wiles at the helm. They will still be centralised in Bicester with mainly civilian employees.

The Pioneer Regiment may be hit by budget cuts although it was widely believed that more of these types of soldiers are needed not less.

The new unit RSME – Royal School of Military Engineers are still coming to Bicester and work to prepare for this was ongoing with Dive pools, caves and a mini dual carriageway being built. There is still an expectation that more regiments may be relocated to Bicester with a possible 600 more soldiers and their families.

Chamber of Commerce – BJ reported that the chamber ran a Skills Event at the Littlebury. The conclusion was that more must be done to support existing employers in the town and it must be made easier to stay and grow in Bicester rather than to relocate.

Amended text

City and County Group bought DE&S Caversfield on 31 Mar 2010 and there is an expectation that this would be a mixed use development. RAF Upper Heyford was sold in 2009 to Dorchester Group [who are unrelated to City & County]. RAF Bicester remains in MOD ownership for the time being, albeit is intended for sale.

BJ reported that he had attended the Eco Fair organised by Kidlington v Climate Change at the weekend and found many interesting organisations there. Suggested contact with the Global Action Plan group particularly for the local schools.

Bicester Village – MM reported that there was increased train use for visitors to the village.

Tesco – PR reported that Tesco’s plan remained the same and they are keen to find an alternative site in Bicester which would help to ease the traffic congestion on Pingle Drive and offer people a better shopping offer. He was keen to know the plans and progress of the Business Park site.

Keith Watson reported that Dorchester Group are the new owners of Heyford Park. He also told partners that the district councils Economic Strategy would soon be available to consult on and he hoped that people would take the time to do this.

Countryside – LS said that there would soon be a project manager on site at Kingsmere.

RF reminded partners that there is a jobs section on the Vision website and encouraged all to give her details of any vacancies and ensure that personnel departments are aware of the free service. The information is also used by other web based Jobs boards and we will shortly have a physical jobs board in the Market Square one stop shop.

She also informed partners of the decision not to build the Immigration Centre in Bicester and the possibility that the Bicester Magistrates Court may be closed as part of government cost cutting measures.

There was a discussion about the number of empty shops in Crown Walk. JL has previously commented that there will be some moving about of tenants once the redevelopment begins. He also said some of the units were being looked at by new tenants. The partners suggested that it would be useful to use these town centre spaces in the meantime.

Date of next Full Partnership Meeting

The next Full Partnership Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st September – venue to be confirmed. Partners have requested that this meeting focus on the NW Bicester Eco project.