

Meeting	BICESTER VISION EXEC BOARD MEETING
Present	Debbie Pickford, Sue Mackrell, Adrian Shooter, Mary Harpley, John Liggins, Chris Cousins, Rachel Faulkner, Bob Langton, Norman Bolster, Ben Jackson,
Apologies	Lawrie Stratford
Date of meeting	Monday 1 November 2010
Venue	Brita, Bicester
Circulation	All partners
Date of next meeting.	Full Partnership Meeting – 14th December

<p>The meeting began with a tour of BRITA and BL thanked Anna Gilbert for allowing us to hold the meeting in their offices.</p>	
<p>Chairman’s Report</p> <p>LEPs – Local Economic Partnerships BL discussed the recent news about LEPs. Bicester/Cherwell is now part of two Local Economic Partnerships – Oxford City Region and South East Midlands. BL discussed the NW Bicester Employment Strategy group on which he sits and expressed concern about the lack of direction and action shown by the group so far. He said that it was important we looked after our existing businesses as well as attracting new companies. AS said that we needed to be clear on what the current issues affecting business are. MH said that there is a range of information that has been collected in different ways on subjects such as employment land, skills shortages and utilities including power and water. BL suggested circulation of the OEP/Brookes Study on Skills Gap. It was suggested that staff from CDC and Vision work together to provide a summary of information to be presented to the board in January with specific information and issues. DP reminded the board that the issues around utilities have been raised previously and we need to understand the long term solutions. MH assured the board that work is being done with those responsible in the areas where the council have influence.</p> <p>BL expressed concern about the LEPs lack of engagement with local business and business groups. They are supposed to be business led but there is little evidence of that. CC explained that the Oxford City Region LEP has three key focuses and Bicester is one of them. They expect to bid for regional growth funds. BJ expressed concern that Bicester is not seen as central to the South Midland LEP and also that it would be difficult for some organisations to resource both LEPs.</p> <p>Chiltern Railways BL confirmed that he will be representing Bicester Vision, the Chamber, and OEP at the public enquiry this week.</p>	<p>BL/RF</p> <p>MH/RF</p> <p>AB</p>

Community Governance event

BL had been invited to attend for Bicester Vision. MH explained that the event was about how community areas in NW Bicester and beyond may be managed in the future. This includes open spaces and community buildings. RF to attend for Vision and report back to the board with a brief summary of outcomes.

RF

Manager's Report

AS asked RF about the Placemaking course she has undertaken and requested more information. It was agreed that RF would give a short presentation at the December meeting.

RF

Partners commented on the success of the leaflet about activities for young people in Bicester which has been well received and attracted some good publicity. MH suggested that some of the content could be used in future Cherwell Link publications. The leaflet will be updated from time to time.

RF

NB offered congratulations on the fact that the Partnership now receives more than 50% of its funding through the private sector. BL said that the support of local government was still essential but that it was excellent to have so many of Bicester's companies getting involved. RF agreed that it was essential to know that we are able to represent so many of Bicester's large employers and share information with them. JL commented on how the Partnership Manager role had grown and what a useful resource it was proving to be to the wider community.

Update on Fairtrade – Bicester has now been granted the status and we are the 500th town in the UK – we hope for a reasonable amount of PR around this and would welcome support from partners

All

Town Centre

JL provided update on town centre development which is well underway. The enabling works will be all but finished by the end of the year. The bus stops are due to move early in the new year. He said that 90+% of the land deals had been done. NB informed partners that the CPO had been issued. JL said that a newsletter is being produced to keep the local community informed about progress.

Traffic

CC said that consultation was underway on the Local Transport Plan. The issue now is the lack of public funding available. The £60m funding for the Access to Oxford programme is no longer available. However a longer term vision for transport across the county is required and the council is keen for feedback from the community.

It was suggested that we ask Daniel Round to attend the December meeting and tell people what the suggestions are for Bicester in order to gather feedback from the wider partnership.

JL said that he would be very keen to get more information about BICITLUS (Bicester Integrated Transport and Land Use Scheme) funds, how much there is and where it might be spent.

It was suggested that this information be made available for the

CC/RF

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board meeting in January.	CC/DR
<p>Evergreen 3 – Chiltern Railways AS reported that work is progressing. The Public Inquiry starts tomorrow and he hopes to receive information in the early summer allowing them to go ahead with the plans. He advised that, on that basis, the Oxford to Bicester line would be closed for 9 months at that point.</p>	
<p>North West Bicester MH reported that the Bicester Vision Full Partnership meeting held in September has been very useful and had helped to shape the One Shared Vision document being produced by the Eco Team. This document will be completed this week in order to be signed off at the Eco Bicester Strategic Delivery Board on Monday. The intention then is for the three councils to formally adopt the document.</p> <p>The application for the first 400 homes – exemplar is expected to be submitted by the end of November.</p> <p>CDC shared with partners the concerns about the employment strategy and the desire that the exemplar lives up to its name and tackles issues around energy, transport and employment as well as being a showcase for the whole project.</p> <p>The construction of the demonstration building in Garth Park is nearly underway and when finished it will be manned by a member of the Eco Bicester team – Azul Strong who is employed as a Community Engagement officer.</p> <p>CC said that the old OCC buildings in Old Place Yard would also be made available to the Eco Team for hot desking or for council meetings.</p>	<p>CDC</p> <p>CC</p>
<p>Vision Event RF suggested that we hold a Public Event in the spring in which we invite a number of different organisations who are interested in consulting or engaging with the community to attend. The event would give residents and other stakeholders a chance to see all the proposals and plans that are currently being discussed and show that there is some joined up thinking about the future growth of the town.</p> <p>BJ also suggested an event around retrofitting. RF and BJ to discuss further.</p>	<p>RF</p> <p>RF/BJ</p>
<p>Any Other Business BL congratulated MH on her new appointment and thanked her for her support and strong leadership over the past few years. MH said that, in the short term at least, John Hoad would take her place on the Bicester Vision board. JL said that he hoped that in the future we could expect to see the</p>	

Chief Executive on the board.
MH explained that because of the current talks about shared management it was too early to say whether that would be feasible.

Date of next Full Partnership Meeting
The next meeting is a Full Partnership Meeting to be held on Tuesday 14th December at 10am – venue to be confirmed.