

BICESTER VISION

Meeting	BICESTER VISION FULL PARTNERSHIP MEETING
Present	Attached separately
Apologies	Attached separately
Date of meeting	Wednesday 22 nd April 2009
Venue	Littlebury Hotel, Bicester
Circulation	All partners
Date of next meeting.	7 July – Bicester Garrison

<p>The Full Partnership meeting was held at the Littlebury Hotel prior to the first AGM. The Chairman explained the format of the afternoon and thanked partners for attending. New partner, Fraser Hamilton of Bicester Business Park was welcomed and the new Tesco representative Dawn Hughes was introduced.</p>	
<p>Sarah Baker – Jones Associates Sarah explained her role in CDC’s long term community strategy. Sarah’s has taken on Bicester and already met a number of community representatives. She explained that MH, SM and KW sit on the Community Strategy committee which is the policy that sets the long term strategies for the council and the investment priorities for the council, police, PCT and others. Mary explained that the strategy looks at the 10 themes of the current plan to find out whether they are still right. Sarah said that the BV partnership was a very important group for consultation and she asked partners to give her feedback about what they considered the big issues for Bicester now and in the future. Partners were given a form and asked to return to Sarah. If you would like to email your response to Rachel, I will make sure they get to her. If you were unable to attend and would like to respond please let me know and I will explain more. KW explained that this was a really important piece of work and we should make sure we get involved. The draft document should be ready for discussion at the next full partnership meeting in July.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All partners</p>
<p>Questions arising from Manager’s Report</p> <p>Bicester Green Bag RF asked if partners such as Wyevale and Bicester Village would consider stocking the Bicester Green Bag when it is produced. We hope to launch them to the retailers at the conference.</p> <p>Bicester Leisure Centre Official opening now 13th June (not 6th as previously stated).</p> <p>Father’s Day RF keen to involve other partners for promotional activity and will be in touch.</p> <p>Town Centre Signage Support needed for progress of removing unnecessary signage on</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>RF/AD/MM</p> <p>RF</p>

<p>Sheep Street.</p> <p>Retail Conference RF asked for support in certain areas referred to report.</p> <p>Communications/Media Protocol All partners agreed that the protocol was a useful document and were happy to adopt it. BL reminded partners that it was their responsibility to share Bicester Vision information with other people in their organisation. The Town Council are now circulating all reports to Town Councillors and the District is doing the same to relevant District Councillors. RF has recently made arrangements with the Chamber of Commerce to circulate information to all members.</p> <p>A discussion followed around statements to the press and subjects on which partners may have different views. AS said that he would not be happy if he felt BV's views were subject could be vetoed by the local councils. MH assured him that is not the case. MM asked if the partnership could agree a statement of what the Vision is. The constitution agreed by partners adopted 'a better Bicester through thriving communities' as the vision statement. BL agreed that this would be circulated to all partners for their views.</p>	<p>RF</p> <p>RF/All Partners</p> <p>All Partners</p>
<p>Eco Developments MH explained that the consultation for the North West Option ends at the end of this month. Did Bicester Vision intend to respond as they had about the Weston Otmoor proposal? BL took views from around the table and it was agreed that he would form a small group to draft a response in favour of the North West Option providing the 10 point plan was adhered to. MH to give BL all necessary information for this letter. If individual partners wished to comment on the proposal they were urged to do so as soon as possible.</p>	<p>BL/RF/MH All Partners</p>
<p>Bicester Job Club/OCVC Get a Job MH gave an update on the job club. There are extra resources in the Economic Development team – a secondment from another department and temporary cover for Karen Matthews. One or both of these will be working on the Banbury Job Club and rollout to Bicester. RF to help where possible. LD distributed a small booklet about retraining opportunities produced by OCVC to try and address some of the current local needs.</p>	
<p>Update on development JL brought the partnership up to date with the town centre development at the AGM after the Partnership Meeting. Progress being made – all still on course for beginning later this year or early next year.</p> <p>BL explained where we are with the Market Square project. There have been a couple of meetings this year to look at ways to integrate the market square scheme with the Town Centre Development. All parties are working hard to ensure that the Market Square is not left</p>	

<p>behind. However, this is still a long way to go and we are currently looking at plans and working out what is possible before consulting with a wider group.</p>	
<p>Transport Meeting BL explained that Huw Jones from Oxfordshire County Council would be joining us after the AGM to talk about the County's plans for transport infrastructure improvement in the future. AS brought us up to date on the Evergreen 3 consultation. Chiltern is getting views from the public before submission in the autumn for a Transport and Works Order. All agreed that we are keen to work with the County Council and not duplicate existing groups but it was generally agreed that the current TAC is not tackling the sort of issues we want to look at. Following the meeting with Huw Jones we will set up a smaller group of people to look at some short term solutions.</p>	<p>BL/RF</p>
<p>Recession</p> <p>JL – some tenants struggling to pay rent and Stockdale were trying to help where they can. One exception being food stores who were still keen to develop. Very little speculative development. Large players in trouble. Big business parks paying rates on empty units.</p> <p>MM – Bicester Village not experiencing any downturn on numbers or spend. Quality and value end of the business. 60% up on tourism. First Great Western adding 40 trains a week from middle of May. Lots of domestic tourism.</p> <p>JP – Bakels – lucky to be in the food sector. Sales up year on year and costs under control.</p> <p>AS – Chiltern ahead of last year. Investing 170 extra car spaces at Bicester North – commissioned in 2 weeks. Still not seeing much effect from city job losses.</p> <p>DH – Tesco's latest figures well publicised. Customer count is up. Better, simpler, cheaper. Not likely to be much recruitment. Better position this year than last.</p> <p>MH – Cherwell's income down. Some large applications have made the situation better than it would otherwise have been. Benefit claims up. Interest rate having serious impact on investments. Significant shortfalls – manageable but forcing council to look at services. Outsourcing benefits team.</p> <p>NW - MoD – £50 million been promised to upgrade quarters.</p> <p>AD – Numbers up at Wyevale – 10% across the store and the Avenue. Most significant growth in grow you own vegetables. – 50%.</p> <p>Nick Carpenter – Nick arrived early for the AGM – he runs a web design company and reported that business is good.</p>	

<p>FH – Bicester Business Park is a newly opened centre – opened at a difficult time although the company had set up similar schemes in the last recession so did not have long term concerns. Counter cyclical offer. Keen to work with local partners and stakeholders to make people aware of the facilities and stop people travelling to Oxford for these kinds of offices.</p>	
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<p>Date of next meeting:</p>	
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<p>3pm on Tuesday 7th July at Bicester Garrison</p>	
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