

BICESTER VISION

Meeting	BICESTER VISION BOARD MEETING
Present	Bob Langton, Mary Harpley, Miranda Markham, Carol Steward, Debbie Pickford, Paul James, Sue Mackrell, Rachel Faulkner
Apologies	John Liggins, Adrian Shooter, Lawrie Stratford, Norman Bolster, Keith Watson, Paul Jobling
Date of meeting	Tuesday 18 th August 2009
Venue	The Garth, Bicester
Circulation	All partners
Date of next meeting.	Full Partnership Meeting – Thursday 8th October – 10.00am

<p>Apologies, Welcomes and Minutes of last meeting Apologies were received. The minutes of the last Executive Board Meeting and last Full Partnership were confirmed as being accurate.</p>	
<p>Matters arising from Minutes BL said that work is still being done to redefine the constitution and objectives of the partnership and a deadline had been set for mid October. BL explained that as circumstances had changed, it may be possible for him to remain as Chairman of Bicester Vision beyond April 2010 but that he would leave that decision to the board.</p>	<p>RF Board</p>
<p>Questions arising from Chairman’s Report BL had circulated his report prior to the meeting. BL said that he and RF had a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce the next day to confirm the aims and objectives of each organisation. BL read the agenda set by the Chamber and asked for comments from the board. MM said that she thought it was healthy to reassess the roles of the two organisations given the changes over the last year.</p> <p>Market Square – BL told the board about the progress from the Market Square committee. There was a lengthy conversation about the options, finance and timings. DP felt that there had not been a proper brief or plan. PJ explained that this had been a different way of working for OCC and that lessons would no doubt be learned from it. MH said that there had been concerns from her team about resources for the project. DP asked why we’re looking at options that are beyond the budget. She also questioned the timing of the project and wondered if tax payers would feel it was a good use of money during a recession. MM explained that she thought the Market Square had been seen as a quick hit given the delay to the town centre development. That it gave a positive message about investment in the town. The board were keen to find out more about the Art at the Centre budget and where so much of it had been spent. MH said that the council would be reluctant to approve plans that</p>	

reduced car park revenue.
 SM said that one of the ideas had been to look at adapting the fees so that money would not be lost even if spaces were. She hoped that this point would be put to the councillors when they were making their decision.
 DP said that she felt the whole thing had been rushed with a clear plan.
 RF said that she thought it was disappointing that the committee had not been able to take advantage of the offer of free help by the local landscape architect company – Applied Landscapes.
 BL said that the timetable had been discussed at the Market Square meeting. Next Market Square meeting Sept 17th.

Paul James

Pedestrian Links to Bicester Village

BL said that it was important to look at the potential for a better pedestrian link to the town from Bicester Village.
 He reported that AS had confirmed that there was no possibility of the shuttle bus stopping in the town centre.
 MM said that there is a huge commitment from Bicester Village to support the town even more so now that so many of their visitors are tourists who may be interested in visiting a local town centre.
 She said that if Bicester had the right offer then there would be great potential and when the time is right Bicester Village would be happy to look at options. She did not discount the possibility of a link through to Chapel St and confirmed that Value Retail now owned the car park that connects Chapel St to the village.
 She also confirmed that the Bloor Homes development was no longer on the cards although there was still an expectation of a smaller housing development around the Nash's bakery site.
 MM explained that there is a pedestrian route from BV to the Bicester Town railway station.
 She suggested that AS should be involved in these discussions to see how the new car park would affect the pedestrian routes.

There was a discussion about the lack of signage on the existing pedestrian route and MH agreed to talk to CDC officers about whose statutory responsibility this would be. Following this discussion it may be useful to set up a group to look at signage and BL asked MM if she would be part of this group. Officer group to meet to ratify responsibility for signage.

MH/Tony Brummell

Questions or comments arising from Manager's Report

PJ said that he was pleased we had been able to help with the Good Neighbours scheme.
 RF showed partners the new Bicester Vision website. Partners agreed this was now a very valuable resource. MM asked how we were intending to launch it to the public as she thought it was such a useful site for local people.

RF

Autumn Events

RL and BL said that they are not planning a Symposium event this autumn but there are a number of smaller events on the horizon.

North West Bicester

MH said that since the last meeting there had been a lot of news and that NW Bicester had now been named as one of 4 new eco towns. There was good news about potential funding opportunities and CDC were working hard on their bids for a share of the £60m available.

She said the government had also said that there would be other grants available for specific areas, such as technology and innovation or climate change.

There was a discussion about what benefits were likely to come for the existing Bicester town and MH said that CDC were very clear that the development was about the whole of Bicester and they would like to start repositioning the terminology so that we started to talk about NeW Bicester rather than NW Bicester.

Bicester Summit

MH explained that CDC are keen to organise a large event towards the end of November/early December in Bicester. This event would cover many subjects but the main topic would be NW Bicester. She was hoping that a couple of government ministers would be able to attend.

She anticipated that this event would also be able to deliver news about the town centre development, the market square and any other relevant projects.

It would be a statement demonstrating what the town is all about and showing that the government is focussed on the town.

MH/RF/BL

Traffic Advisory Committee

BL had expressed some frustrations about the group not meeting until November. He felt that there were issues that needed to be discussed prior to that. He asked whether the board felt that a private sector meeting was needed to discuss the issues before the TAC.

SM said that it would be wise to go to the TAC with a clear agenda of the issues. It would then be likely that these would be prioritised and scheduled into forthcoming meetings.

BL said that it might be a good idea to get the issues flushed out with the traffic generators of the town.

MM said that all businesses had idiosyncratic traffic behaviour and that each would be aware of these. For instance BV has traffic built up for a couple of hours on Saturday and Sundays.

She felt that it would be more helpful for the TAC to go to businesses and say what the issues are so that the businesses can look at ways to alleviate them.

BL said that it may be useful to have a meeting with Value Retail, Countryside, Bakels, Wyevale, and Stockdale to discuss the issues.

RF said that she felt we all know what the issues are but we were not sure what the plan was for rectifying them. She was concerned that bringing J9 to the TAC would be pointless as they are not in a position to act upon it. BL to meet with DP and Charles Shouler to discuss agenda and way forward. To be followed, upon agreement, with a meeting of traffic generators.

BL

AOB

Bicester Jazz Festival – SM and MM reported that the events had gone very well and were extremely well attended.

CS asked the board to support the Cherwell Climate Change Partnership Pledge. She asked for the details to be distributed amongst the partnership.

MM informed the board that Bicester Village would be hosting a one off Job Club on Friday 18th September from 11am to 1pm. She reported that there are a number of vacancies at BV that they would be advertising but that they were also intending to launch their Retail Apprenticeships.

Date of next meeting

The date of the Full Partnership Meeting has been changed. Please cancel 29 September and change to Thursday 8th October at 10am – followed by a buffet lunch. Venue to be confirmed.