

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Economic Development Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on
Monday, 25 January 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

Portfolio Holder: Nick Wright

Councillors in attendance:

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitors and Opposition spokesmen: Philippa Hart

Opposition spokesmen: Bridget Smith

Also in attendance: James Hockney

Officers:

Nicole Kritzinger	Development Officer
Jo Mills	Planning and New Communities Director
Ian Senior	Democratic Services Officer
Jonathan Dixon	Principal Planning Policy Officer (Transport)
Juliette Wilson	Consultancy Officer (Conservation)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder signed, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2015.

3. HERITAGE GUARDIANSHIP SITES: LANDBEACH TITHE BARN, EAST HATLEY CHURCH AND SAWSTON TANNERY DRYING SHED

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder considered a report on the guardianship of heritage assets and, specifically, a revised Heads of Terms for the lease, and a draft project plan, for Landbeach Tithe Barn.

Those present discussed a number of issues relating to the wording of the lease of the Tithe Barn. They also urged the Portfolio Holder to increase the term of the lease from 25 years to 99 years.

The Historic Buildings Consultancy Officer summarised the anticipated timescale for completing the works to Sawston Drying Shed. The Portfolio Holder requested that monitoring reports be presented to each of his public meetings.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder said the target date for the transfer of St. Denis Church remained 31 March 2016.

With reference to the Tithe Barn, Landbeach, the Planning Portfolio Holder

1. **noted** the Tithe Barn Trust's draft project plan in Appendix 2 to the report from the Planning and New Communities Director; and
2. **endorsed** the updated Heads of Terms in Appendix1, subject to

- (a) Adding into paragraph 7.1 (Use) the words “active promotion” so that the paragraph states to the effect: “The Tenant is to restore, maintain and actively promote the use of the Tithe Barn for use for community purposes and the advancement of education and interest in the history of the area.”
 - (b) Clarifying that paragraph 9 (Repair) includes maintenance, and rewording it to the following effect:
 - “9. Repair and Maintenance
 - 9.1 The lease will be a full repairing, maintenance and insuring lease with the Tenant responsible for all repairs and maintenance, including vermin control.”
 - (c) Clarifying that paragraph 12 (Landlord’s works) requires the Landlord to use “best endeavours”
3. **Agreed** to the lease’s term being increased from 25 years to 99 years.

With reference to the Sawston Drying Shed, the Planning Portfolio Holder **noted** the progress of the works,

With reference to St. Denis Church, East Hatley, the Planning Portfolio Holder **noted** that legal work was ongoing to enable its transfer to the Friends of Friendless Churches.

4. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND FUTURE DELIVERY**

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder **received and noted** a report updating him on Economic Development delivery in the past six months and future planned economic activity for the 2016-17 service period.

LEP: Enterprise Zone Wave 2

The Portfolio Holder welcomed the potential offered by Cambridge Compass, but expressed reservations about the business rates element. He said the new Enterprise Zone must not be a cost to South Cambridgeshire District Council, and the Council’s Cabinet would be asked to monitor the situation.

London Stansted Cambridge Consortium (LSCC)

Those present noted the detailed report, but focussed on Improved Broadband and Digital Connectivity. Councillor Bridget Smith and Councillor Philippa Hart said it was important to identify where there remained gaps in coverage by superfast broadband and, although it was possible to interrogate the Connecting Cambridgeshire website, Councillor Smith asked that a report be presented to the next meeting. She reminded the Portfolio Holder that the Council had contributed £50,000 to this project, and was entitled to know what impact that money had had on local villages. If British Telecom failed to deliver, then other options (such as broadband delivered by radio) should be explored as a means of ensuring total coverage.

In response to Councillor Smith’s question as to whether the ‘Smart Cities: Toward Intelligent Transport’ initiative would benefit South Cambridgeshire, the Portfolio Holder said that the intention was to develop joined-up transport opportunities from the edge of Cambridge outwards into the surrounding area.

On Business Support, the Portfolio Holder explained how the LSCC was proving to be an effective lobbying tool.

Support to the Rural Economy

Councillor Smith (a local Member representing Gamlingay) spoke about Gamlingay Parish Council's support for Economic growth, and summarised the steps she had taken to help facilitate that growth through the establishment of a business directory and development of a business-oriented app.

The Bike-Bus Explorer project had been successful, but uptake was beginning to tail off.

Tourism

Those present received a copy of the news sheet published by the new Destination Marketing Organisation (DMO). They noted the symbolism of the logo. Councillor Smith said it was crucial that the DMO should engage with the Greater Cambridge City Deal. The Development Officer hoped that the DMO would bring with it better management, placing a greater emphasis on the value of tourism rather than its volume.

5. GYPSY & TRAVELLER ISSUES UPDATE

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder received and noted a report updating him on the range of issues and actions relating to the provision of Council services to the Gypsy and Traveller community in South Cambridgeshire.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder received and noted the Work Programme attached to the agenda.

The Work Programme would be reorganised so as to reflect, for each meeting, the items on the present agenda.

The following items would be added to the programme for the meeting in June 2016:

- Internet and mobile phone coverage
- Smart Cities
- Gamlingay App

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Economic Development Portfolio Holder meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 8 June 2016, starting at 2.00pm.

Further meetings, all starting at 2.00pm, had been scheduled for

- Wednesday 14 September 2016
- Wednesday 14 December 2016
- Wednesday 8 March 2017

The Meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.
