

Notes of the Income GENERATION SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP meeting held on TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2017 in the Brooks Room - Council Offices, Narborough

Attendees:-

Members:-

Cllr. Mark Jackson (Chairman)

Cllr. Marian Broomhead
Cllr. Sharon Coe

Cllr. David Findlay
Cllr. Les Phillimore

Cllr. Louise Richardson
Cllr. Ben Taylor

Officers:-

Linda McBean - Senior Scrutiny Officer

Apologies:-

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam, Cllr. Roy Denney, Cllr. Lindsey Dracup and Cllr. Antony Moseley

1. **CONSIDER NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the meeting held on 21 September 2017 were approved.

2. **LUBBESTHORPE - PROGRESS UPDATE** (Pages 5 - 6)

The Working Group considered the report of the Planning & Economic Development Group Manager.

From discussion the following comments and questions were raised:-

Lubbesthorpe progress updates - Members asked that future updates include the 'Total number of houses occupied' figure against target and the number of houses sold.

1. Proposed express bus lane

With the bus route for Thorpe Astley/Kingsway withdrawn, the only bus route to the Kingsway GP surgery and Fosse Park is via the city and out again.

Members asked,

- a) what the timescale for the new bus route would be to open up Baines Lane as a bus only route?
- b) could the bus company be asked to reinstate the previous route.

In the meantime, it is essential that the CCG and bus companies liaise.

ACTION – Planning & Economic Development Group Manager to advise on taking this up with County and/or District/Ward Councillors to lobby.

2. Travel Pack

Members were keen that take-up of the free bus travel pass offer is fully utilised by each new household. Although the Travel Pack, which includes an application form enabling the occupant to a free travel pass for Arriva buses, is hand delivered shortly after occupation Members queried:-

- a) Residents awareness of the opportunity for free bus travel; how is it being promoted and if the application form might be overlooked if part of the full welcome pack or even considered a hassle to apply for?
- b) The 'take-up' of bus passes to date, is there a percentage target?
- c) If the budget for the travel pack is ring-fenced what happens if it's not fully utilised?
- d) What other information is included as part of the welcome pack – which should be in Plain English and simple to use.

NOTE – a response to questions 2 a-d is attached as minute 2.

3. Business and employment skills

Members felt the update lacked detail and didn't answer:

- a) How and what the Council and Skills Training Co-ordinator is doing to encourage high skill business to the district?
- b) How are we feeding the Council's ambition into school academies and linking into universities too?
- c) Where are we on this journey?
- d) How is the new training facility being promoted and what will it be used for – are digital skills being championed?
- e) How does new Lubbethorpe feed into the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership growth targets?

ACTION – that the Planning & Economic Development Group Manager respond to the questions raised in the next update to the working group.

3. BLABY NORTH AREA PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

Cllr L Richardson provided the working group with verbal feedback following a briefing at Leics County Council by East Leics & Rutland CCG and a meeting with the CCG Chief Operating Officer and Leic Forest East, Narborough, Thorpe Astley Ward Councillors.

Key points

- GP recruitment – treatment options and specialisms areas are being looked at
- North Blaby GP provision being reviewed
- Thorpe Astley Community Centre – options to open an existing facility at the centre are being discussed in close collaboration with Braunstone Town Council and one off funding from Blaby District Council.

The Chairman explained oversight of this issue provides evidence on the importance of having the right building blocks in place for a community to thrive and from which conclusions and recommendations can be developed for the working group's review of new Lubbethorpe.

4. USE AND COST OF CONSULTANTS REVIEW - DRAFT FINAL REPORT

The Working Group reviewed the draft final report and discussed the conclusions and recommendations.

ACTION - Scrutiny Officer to finalise the report for submission to 7 February Scrutiny Commission

5. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - TO BE CONFIRMED.**

Date of the next meeting 15 March 2018

Income Generation Working Group - New Lubbesthorpe Review Response to questions raised on travel passes and Welcome Information Pack

Response from Martin Ward, Director Mather Jamie

The free bus pass can be applied for on line or by post. It is about as hassle free as we can make it but there does have to be an application process as otherwise the free passes will be abused by non qualifying non NL residents.

The Landowners have paid Arriva up front for 40 passes and as these are taken up, so the Landowner will replenish. I have asked Arriva for the take up rate to date. Hand delivering the travel packs we think is the best way of ensuring that every new household receives the travel pack.

The travel packs and bus passes are all part of a £47million phase 1 infrastructure spend and are not “ ring fenced “ but I can assure members that the Drummond family are going to be investing in New Lubbesthorpe for the long term and are not going to be “ here today gone tomorrow “ Skimping on provision of travel packs and bus passes is just not going to happen.

In terms of other information received by new residents I know Sue Steer the NL community worker has her own welcome information (funded by the Landowners) which I am sure is written in plain English as suggested by members. It might be a good idea if you asked Sue for a copy

Response from Sue Steer, New Lubbesthorpe Community Worker

Thanks for getting in touch, the Welcome Folder pack is made up of:

- The Information folder
- A LC key ring
- 2 seasonal gifts eg flowering bulbs and fair trade chocolate
- All contained in a LC logo cotton bag

The Drummond Estate kindly funded the design and production of the welcome folder which I wrote, the rest is funded by ourselves – Churches Together. As we are approaching 100 dwellings in the next couple of months and the rate of move in per month is increasing, it is now becoming unfeasible for me to visit and deliver to each new household (and repeat visit until I find them in!). Therefore I am in the process of changing approach which will likely mean a shorter leaflet which is delivered (or posted through the door if they are not in) along with one small gift.

The personal delivery is lovely to be able to do but as I say, now becoming unfeasible. However, now we have The Community Hub (provided as part of the S106 agreement - the Drummond Estate and BDC have also helped kit out) we are growing groups and activities to help people meet one another and so provides other ways of growing community and building relationships. I have already done a number of ‘Meet Your Neighbour Events’ since last summer which have been well attended. I am also in the process of setting up groups around fitness and young families as this is what residents are asking for.

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