

Holmes Chapel Partnership Meeting

Wednesday 26th June 2013 at 7.00pm at the Methodist Church, Holmes Chapel

1 Attendees

1. Present:

Jacqui Barton, Harry Brooks, Stuart Gammon, Phil Hargreaves, Hazel Sutcliffe, Les Gilbert, Glyn Chambers, Dorothy Davidson

2. Apologies:

Bethan Wiggett and Heather Jones

3. Absent:

Steve Ranger

4. Previous Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May were approved

5. Actions from Previous Minutes.

Hazel/Harry are continuing to liaise with Fine Decor and Northern rail regarding access to the station platform from Eastgate Road

2 Correspondence.

Stuart advised that he had received a letter from Sanofi confirming that they were closing the A.P club. (Letter previously circulated).

Stuart advised that he had received information that Blue Mantle have signed an agreement with Sainsbury's to develop a supermarket, with a petrol station, on the site of the former Fisons building. The supermarket is expected to be of a size similar to Booths in Knutsford.

They will be putting on a public exhibition in the Library from Friday 28th June through to Monday 1st July. Everyone is encouraged to go along and see what is happening / express views. It is expected that a formal planning application will be submitted to Cheshire East Council very soon.

3 Action for market Towns Briefing.

Glyn gave a brief overview of the proposed AMT convention to be held in the Congleton LAP area on 6th and 7th November:

Concept: Around 150 delegates will be holding their annual Action for market Towns Convention within the Congleton LAP area and will focus on the following projects.

1. *Building Effective Town Partnerships in Sandbach with Holmes Chapel:*

Long-term success in improving communities involves creating and building on the solid foundations of effective town teams or partnerships. This Knowledge Exchange Visit will focus on how this has been achieved for a long-established town partnership in Sandbach and a more recently formed group in

Holmes Chapel. The building blocks of effective partnership working will be highlighted on a tour of sites showing key achievements of a broad-based partnership in Sandbach and Holmes Chapel will provide an example of good practice in more recent partnership creation.

2. Planning a Town-wide Revival in Middlewich:

This visit will consider the chequered history of town regeneration in Middlewich that has delivered public realm improvements and successful visitor events but which has recently been thrown off-track by an opportunistic town-edge supermarket development. In need of a coherent strategy for balancing local services and visitor attractions, the visit will focus on whether a comprehensive and community-led Neighbourhood Plan is the appropriate way to achieve this, stimulate development, attract funding and help re-invent the town.

The visit will incorporate a tour of key town development sites including considering alternative uses for a 2 hectare town centre site acquired by Tesco and the potential for revamped community assets including the canal-side wharf buildings and Town hall complex. Discussions will focus on sharing experiences between towns involved in Neighbourhood Planning, asset management and the application of the new Community Rights

3. Delivering Town Centre Solutions in Alsager with Congleton:

Building on a successful town centre development involving improved parking, public realm and retail provision, this visit will look at next steps for town centre solutions and how to achieve this. Future potential includes transfer of services to Alsager Town Council, redevelopment of a redundant town yard, promotion of "Shop Local" with the Chamber of Trade, the imaginative re- use of empty shops and planning links to larger town edge development sites. Participants will also hear about the ongoing strategy for a £10 million town centre development in nearby Congleton including relocation of the market, public realm improvements and enhancing the evening economy.

The visit will incorporate a town centre tour with participants completing a questionnaire to capture first impressions of Alsager relative to their home town and views on suggested improvements and practical implementation. Discussions will also focus on funding challenges and opportunities such as the new Community Infrastructure Levy and town team development including potentially a joint Business Improvement District for neighbouring towns.

Glyn concluded by confirming that a dinner will be held within Congleton Town Hall on the 6th November to which Stuart and Steve as Chairman of the Council will be invited.

4 Developments and Opportunities at Fisons Site.

Stuart gave an update on the opportunities for development at the Fisons site confirming that there would be a Sainsbury's exhibition the following Friday.

Stuart was optimistic about the siting of a skate board park on the southern edge of the plot. However the timeline for the project was quite long and that it would be unlikely to see a new supermarket before 2015 and maybe not until well into 2016.

Action. Stuart to visit the Sainsbury's exhibition and report back to the partnership.

5 Project Updates

6. Play areas.

Work will commence on Monday 1.7.2013 and take three weeks to complete.(Actual starting date 8.07.13)

The official opening of the Play area will be Saturday 27th July 2013 11a.m to 1p.m all invited.

Stuart noted that a "Friends of the Middlewich Road Play Area" group had not yet been set up and Glyn was tasked with encouraging more involvement.

Stuart advised that consideration now be given to the Elm drive play area and that once the Play area was open, the existing Project Board will be replaced by a new Elm Drive Board.

Action. Glyn to identify typical roles and time commitments for a friends group and to investigate new members for the Elm Drive Project Board.

7. Dane Meadow.

Glyn provided a resume of the Dane Meadow procurement process and confirmed that tenders were due back on July 12th and evaluated on July 15th. Contracts to be signed on the 26th July and work would commence on the 18th August and last around 4 months.

Hazel updated the partnership on the work of the Friends group. The Bioblitz action in early June had been successful in involving local children but attracted limited interest from the adult population of the village. The next practical session was due the last Sunday in June, a Friends meeting is planned for July 2nd. The website, willow weaving and update of the activity programme to be discussed..

8. Cycling Village.

Hazel displayed the latest village cycling map and Stuart congratulated her and the group for the excellent work. Hazel also confirmed that a family bike ride from the Hermitage School was planned on 7th July 12.30 p.m meeting at the Red Lion Pub in Goostrey..

SECCAG.

Harry reported that the Congleton LAP cycling network had almost finished developing the network maps for the area and that all the partnerships would be consulted prior to a print run of 6000 copies.

6 Business Updates

9. Business Forum.

The Business forum chaired by Mark Tyson had been meeting and were planning their inaugural food and music event in the Village in September. The secretary Susan Cooper from the Village Lantern had been in constant contact with the partnership seeking support with organisational issues and funding. The new group hoped to run an event once a quarter. Stuart and Glyn agreed to discuss with and support the group on their constitution and insurance responsibilities.

10. PARK LIVE.

The Park Live event being organised by the Congleton Partnership were seeking support and involvement from the other Towns. Unfortunately due to lack of capacity it was agreed that the Holmes Chapel Partnership would not be represented at this event.

Events Updates

11. Holmes Chapel Showcase, 8th June.

Stuart reported that the partnerships involvement at the show case had been worthwhile and thanked everyone who had attended to help on the day.

12. Christmas Market.

Dorothy confirmed that she had delivered letters throughout the village and had given until 15th July to respond. She confirmed that some shops would be opening and having a stall others would just be opening their shops and in that scenario would be encouraged to give a donation to support the event.

Action Dorothy to report the response to the Christmas flyers at the next partnership meeting.

7 A.O.B.

Stuart asked everyone to start considering the AGM in October. One suggestion was a cafe style A.G.M with formal meeting mixed in and to be held on Saturday 12th or 19th October from 10.a.m to 12 p.m and the formal meeting at 11.00 a.m.

Dorothy agreed to book the community room in the library.

Action Dorothy to book the community room in the library for the AGM in October.

8 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17th July @ 7pm, Bradshaw Room, Methodist Church