

**These minutes will be presented to the next meeting on 16th June 05 for approval  
as a correct record**

## **WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the: **BRADFORD ON AVON AREA SEMINAR**

Held on: **10 FEBRUARY 2005**

Held in: **ST MARGARET'S HALL  
BRADFORD-ON-AVON**

Present:

Councillors: Brown (Chairman), Cunliffe-Jones, Hames, Lewis (part)  
and Repton

Also in attendance: Malcolm Hewson – Chair of Bradford on Avon Community  
Area Partnership  
Phil Morgan – Wiltshire County Council  
Godfrey Marks – Bradford on Avon Traffic & Transport  
Forum  
- Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust  
- Bradford on Avon Community Area  
Transport Group  
Victoria Landell Mills – Bradford on Avon Town Council  
Adrian Kennedy } – Limpley Stoke  
Alan Jon } - Parish  
Ruth Talboys } - Council  
Majorie Hayter – South Wraxall Parish Council  
John Allison – Winsley Parish Council  
Bob Butler  
Trevor & Barbara Tees  
John & Annette Seekings  
Angela Moss  
Sally Conway – Senior Citizens Forum  
Ann Monblat – Senior Citizens Forum  
Susan Andrew

Officers: Ian Gallin – Corporate Director  
Jacky Nicholas - Community Development Officer  
Melanie Stimpson – Member Support Officer

## **9 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Farkas, Viles and Wiltshire

**10 OPEN FORUM**

Open forum speaker: \_

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
Traffic, redevelopment & air quality	Godfrey Mark
Senior Citizens Forum	Ann Monblat
Planning Application – The old gas works site, Frome Road	Bob Butler and John Seekings
Site visits and planning policy	Susan Andrew

**11 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**12 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

**Air Quality Management**

On behalf of the Environment Portfolio Holder the Chairman gave an update on air quality management in Bradford on Avon, copy attached.

Councillor Hames expressed his concerns and frustration over this item, especially the change of contractor and asked if any progress had actually been made. Councillor Hames looked forward to the draft action plan which would be considered by Cabinet on 30 March 2005. He felt that the action plan would probably prove inconclusive, however an action plan for managing the problem was required. Councillor Hames requested that the Committee's concerns be referred to the portfolio holder.

**LSP Community Strategy**

The Chairman presented a plaque launching the LSP Community Strategy 2004-2014 to John Allison of Winsley Parish Council

**13 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Repton announced that a meeting to discuss the Waterloo rail link would be held at St Margarets Hall on Friday 11 February at 7.30pm and encouraged everyone to attend.

Councillor Lewis announced that another Community Fun Day was planned to take place in Bradford on Avon during the Arts Festival week. Volunteers were sought to help organise the fun day. Those wishing to help were invited to attend a meeting in the Scribbling Horse in Bradford on Avon at 7pm on 7 March 2005.

#### **14 DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN**

Malcolm Hewson, Chair of Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership gave a presentation on the draft community plan. Please see attached.

A question was raised of how the additional funding required to fund the community plan would be found. Jacky Nicholas stated that the Partnership would need to look at applying for additional grants, as it would cost approximately £5000 to fund. The Partnership was unsuccessful in obtaining Market and Coastal Town funding as it did not meet the deprivation indicator.

Godfrey Marks enquired if other groups were experiencing similar difficulties. Jacky Nicholas confirmed that 4 out of 20 had been unsuccessful in the bid process, however Bradford on Avon was deemed the least deprived out of those 4.

Trevor Tees asked if planning and building featured within the community plan. Malcolm Hewson stated that it did not include planning and building, but that the Partnership could influence policy but not individual cases.

It was felt that the development on the Old Gasworks site along Frome Road was out of keeping with Bradford on Avon and concerns were raised that it may set a precedent for future developments. It was also felt that the finishing of the building works did not conform to that required in the planning application.

Susan Andrews expressed her dissatisfaction with the policies of the planning department. In a recent conversation she had contacted the planning department for advice and asked if an officer could visit where she lived to give advice if the work she wanted to do was likely to be given planning permission. The response given was that it was not possible and the only option was to put an application in and see what happened, which would waste her time and money if refused. Susan Andrews questioned the change in policy as seventeen years ago the planning department had visited where she lived and offered advice.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Planning Enforcement Officer be asked to investigate the development on the Old Gas Works Site on Frome Road and report back via a note attached to these minutes.**
- (2) The portfolio holder be asked about the procedure for dealing with developmental control enquiries, and that the experience of Susan Andrew be drawn to the attention of the portfolio**

**holder for investigation and report back via a note attached to these minutes.**

- (3) The Chair write to the Chief Executive of the County Council to thank them for their contribution to the community plan and ask how the County Council intends to change the way it plans**

**service delivery to the community plan.**

## **15 CORPORATE STRATEGY**

Ian Gallin explained that the Corporate Plan sets out what the Council plans to achieve over the next five years by adopting 6 key spotlight areas. Some services that the Council provides were statutory and the Council can have an influence on how the services are delivered. The 6 priorities were determined following consultation with the public, councillors and from the 5 town's Community Plans. Ian Gallin explained the priorities in greater detail and that each priority had performance indicators to meet.

Victoria Landell Mills was pleased to see that market town regeneration was featured within the corporate plan as increasingly it is seen that disused industrial sites are being sold off for housing developmental land. It is difficult to keep Bradford on Avon a place that people can live and also work in. Ian Gallin stated that the Council is looking at ways to address this problem and ways to defend these types of planning applications.

Susan Andrews asked if a survey had been carried out to assess the amount of vacant properties available that could be utilised to provide housing. Ian Gallin confirmed that it has and that the Council now has the power to force the landlord to put an empty property onto the market but hopes that this would not be necessary and that the Council can develop good relations with the landlords. Good relationships are already being built by working closely with the landlords.

John Seekings questioned if the Corporate Strategy should be titled as this as he feels it more of a management plan. Ian Gallin explained that the Council had to produce a number of documents, the Corporate Plan being the highest level of documentation, which the whole Council works towards. The next level of documentation were Service Strategies followed by the Annual Service Plans. A main aim was to keep the documents simple and straightforward to understand.

## **16 BUDGET**

Councillor While, substituting Councillor Phillips, explained that the budget had been set around the 6 key spotlight areas. The Council tax would be increased by approximately 4.5%; if it were to be increased by more than 5% the Council could possibly be rate capped. There were increasing pressures on the budget such as having to provide statutory services, the shortfall in the pension fund and the Council having to spend its reserves. Due to these and other financial constraints some non-statutory services had to be evaluated and prioritised which would result in some charges being increased and other services being depleted.

In response to the concerns about the tennis courts at Culver Close, Bradford on Avon, Councillor While informed the meeting that it is being considered how to resolve this matter and felt optimistic that a solution would be found probably not by this summer but in the following financial year.

**17 ANY ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE REFERRAL TO CABINET**

No items required referral to Cabinet

**18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 16 June 2005 subject to the date being approved by Council on 23 February 2005.

(7.05 pm – 9.10 pm)

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