

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP HELD ON 13 JULY 2015

PRESENT:

Cllr T Hill (Chairman)	Colin Hirst
Cllr R Thompson	Craig Matthews
Cllr K Hind	Melissa Thorpe
Cllr S Atkinson	
Cllr L Graves	
Cllr J Rogerson	

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Cllr A Knox.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 November 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Rogerson again raised the issue of the need to renew the painted bays on Barclay Road Car Park, Longridge. Robert would speak to Adrian Harper.

REVIEW OF PRIORITIES

Colin circulated the Terms of Reference for this working group. He informed members that economic development feeds into a lot of other corporate issues – planning, housing, health & wellbeing, tourism and community projects. The Core Strategy provides a development plan for economic development and much of the information it contains replaces what has previously been within a traditional regeneration strategy. We have moved towards having key projects and actions rather than bulky strategies.

Several current issues were highlighted

Clitheroe Market site – a redevelopment linked to the Clitheroe Town Centre scheme. The process to find interested developers was well under way and a short list of 2 had been finalised. There would now be a detailed examination of the two submissions against a scoring scheme. A recommendation would then be made to P & F committee.

Colin informed the members that there was a specific working group set up to consider the Market re-development consisting of Leader, Dep Leader, Chair P & D and Cllr A Knox.

Employment Land Provision – BE group had done a study and refresh of this issue in 2013 as part of the Core Strategy with the conclusion being that a minimum of 8 hectares was required to meet development needs.

The Admiral Tavern site at Barrow earmarked for employment land had applied for residential and was now appealing against the decision to refuse the application. As a key part of our employment strategy the economic development team would be involved with the appeal.

Examples of successful employment sites included Link 59, Carr Hall and Salesbury Manor. Colin highlighted that land did not need to be delivered directly but RVBC can facilitate.

It was suggested by members that as a Council we should be proactive in looking for land and accept that the only option might be compulsory purchase in order to attain it.

RV Food Trail and Festival – Melissa informed the members that the food trail was an initiative following the impact of foot and mouth and with some help from business support had proved very successful. It was now due for a re-vamp. The food festival was now in its' 4th year and continued to bring a lot of visitors into Clitheroe.

Along with events like the Tour of Britain on 7 September 2015, these were opportunities that local businesses could use to capitalise on visitors to the area and hopefully have a lasting legacy. Melissa's role was to help deliver projects and business support.

Town Centre Plans – plans of the town centres of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley were circulated to all members showing the shop fronts and layout.

It was suggested that we ought to be encouraging the big national chain stores into the area. A particular issue in Clitheroe Town centre was restricted leases (no Sunday trading), restrictive ownership and a lot of listed/conservation buildings. These factors can serve to restrict operators. Officers liaise with agents and promote the centres and will help assist businesses wishing to locate here.

Growth Corridor Study – This particular study was an East Lancashire Connectivity study that focused mainly on the A59 corridor and therefore excluded Longridge. Longridge was covered elsewhere. It was a good example of joint working with other authorities and of the types of study that the working group may contribute to in future work.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be at **4pm on Monday 17 August 2015** in Committee Room 1 of the Civic Suite, 13 Church Street, Clitheroe.