

# MINUTES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2015

## PRESENT:

Cllr T Hill (Chairman)	Colin Hirst
Cllr S Atkinson	Craig Matthews
Cllr J Rogerson	
Cllr R Sherras (by invitation)	

## APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Cllrs L Graves and R Thompson.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 July 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Colin confirmed the membership of the Market Re-Development working group at Leader, Deputy Leader, Cllr I Brown and Cllr M Robinson.

A date for the Admiral Taverns appeal had now been set – Wednesday 18 November 2015.

The Food Festival had been a great success.

The Growth Corridor Study would be considered as a future agenda item. (Longridge was covered in the Central Lancashire Masterplan).

## REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

Craig informed the group of the Regional Growth Fund which was the result of a successful partnership bid to round 6 of the Government's Regional Growth Fund. Regenerate Pennine Lancs had been subcontracted to manage the fund which equated to £7m and was available until 2017. Businesses supported through the LBG must commit to the early creation of sustainable private sector jobs and be based on an evidenced need. Examples were given of suitable projects. There was already some interest from businesses in the Ribble Valley.

It was imperative that this be promoted and publicized.

## CURRENT REGENERATION PROJECTS

Colin highlighted several projects that we were currently involved in –

- Thornber Mill, Clitheroe – development of a Listed building to house Bowland Brewery, residential accommodation, office space, craft space, retail, visitor centre, and a central patisserie to service their own hostleries.

The planning policy framework is proactive to growth and the heritage aspect is protective but acknowledges the need to 'live in the present and think about the future'.

- Market Re-Development scheme – the bids received are currently being evaluated – to be considered at the special P & F meeting.
- Whalley Arms, Whalley – this site was now being marketed by Enterprise Inns but not as a public house. A conclusion was imminent. Colin was looking at alternative sites for car parking just in case.
- Stonyhurst – aspirations to create a dedicated heritage centre / visitor centre using the old mill building (Grade II). After 3 years the funds are now in place to make the investment. This scheme has tremendous potential and could be internationally significant.

ACTION – John Cowdall, Chair of Governors be invited to the next meeting to talk about their aspirations.

## EMPLOYMENT LAND

Craig produced plans with current employment land plotted on them – these need to be formally designated along with sites that have planning permission. Additional sites are being sought to ensure adequate provision ie 8 hectares. Something is also needed for the wider rural economy where there are gaps eg Chipping. Promotion of available sites is also being updated. Many sites are self-selecting in terms of viability.

## AOB

The Chairman referred to an issue raised by the MP who had recently been to Dublin and found that there was a single source for Wifi for the whole of the city. He was going to talk to BT but asked that the issue also be investigated by the officers. Colin / Craig would do this.

Cllr Atkinson expressed concern that with the addition of houses in the RV that young persons would be looking for employment outside the Borough as they do not have the required skills..... He asked if RV could have a policy to encourage and support businesses who have high quality active training programmes. Colin / Craig would investigate further.

## DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be at **4pm on Tuesday 29 September 2015** in Committee Room 1 of the Civic Suite, 13 Church Street, Clitheroe.