

Brampton Economic Partnership

14 July 2011, 3-5 pm

at Brampton Community Association

NOTES

Present: Hazel (in chair), Cllr Marilyn Bowman, Cllr Lawrence Fisher, Trevor Atkinson, Darren Crossley, Mike Fox, Cllr Stella Lewsley, Harriet Sykes

Apologies: Keith Twentyman, Mike Downham, Bob Allan, Zoe Sutton. Hazel reported that Anne Sowerby had had an accident and would be out of action for at least 6 weeks.

Notes of the previous meeting agreed.

Moot Hall

Trevor up-dated the meeting on the Moot Hall Project. Originally the BPC was interested to look at improved utilisation of the space in the Moot Hall and meetings were held in April and May to thrash out some ideas. These divide into 2 themes - Physical and Activities. Under physical come items such as: Interpretation of Hadrian's Wall and locality; improve and review of TIC layout, space and information provision; refurbishment to interior; improve white and brown signage into Brampton from A69; the WI market; what's on offer in Brampton. Under activities come items such as: historical talks; history tours; taster days; art/photo exhibitions; space flexible and not rigid.

Project looks suitable for application to Your Heritage Funding with a maximum grant of £50k. Now needs further consultation with wider groups of interested users and potential users also to ensure clear communication of project to avoid 'treading on toes'. Brampton Parish Council will lead on this project and Trevor will produce short report to go to Brampton Parish Council prior to their next meeting.

Future of the TIC was discussed. Lawrence reminded meeting TICs used to be run by volunteers. Darren reported that Laura Boyle was undertaking a review of City Council's allocation of resources to TICs. All agreed that quality should not be compromised whatever model was used.

Town Centre Management

A report for above project due to go out to Brampton Parish Council shortly, but as Anne is out of action may not happen. Hazel will visit her at the end of the month to discuss actions.

Localism and the Big Society

Hazel's report had been previously circulated. The emphasis was on a practical approach and at the recent meeting with Darren 6 areas of activity had been identified as potential areas of joint working. Some of these, car parking, town centre management and the Moot Hall were already under way while others possible asset transfers, renewable energy generation, tourism business support needed further work to identify community priorities, community aspirations, feasibility and viability and how the connections with the Local Development Framework, the Property Review and local authority financial/resource plans fit.

Discussions developed about renewable energy and the feasibility of the City Council becoming an investor in future local projects. Parish councils are now legally allowed to generate income from energy schemes. BEP had held an open day very successfully at Low Luckens on June 4 for the Agricultural sector. Generally there was a lot of enthusiasm and interest out there. Hazel, Darren and representatives from Sustainable Brampton to discuss this further.

Tourism Support was also discussed in light of changes in the structure and funding of existing bodies such as CT, HWH and Carlisle Tourism Partnership. Darren outlined the City Council's plan to form a joint tourism and city centre project board. This is likely to happen in the late summer and will probably concern mostly events and marketing for the city. It is likely that this will leave a gap for tourism businesses in the rural areas. It was agreed that Harriet, Trevor and Neil (HWH) should meet to discuss possible ideas formulate a plan and present it at the next meeting.

Asset transfer was discussed. Concerns raised by Brampton and Beyond Community Trust about recent property disposal were reported and Darren advised that the Council had completed a full asset review and is now implementing its Asset Business Plan. This plan will direct decisions about future asset disposals, investments and purchases. The plan is clear that consultation with Councillors and Parish Councils will take place before any sales process. In support of BEP the Council is prepared to assist with a property review of the area to help establish better understanding of public and private land and property holdings. It is envisaged this work will provide useful data for BEP and constituent groups. The data may be useful in planning future projects such as food growing, energy supply etc. Darren to come to next meeting to discuss how this is progressed.

Date of the next meeting: September 8, 3 – 5 pm, Brampton Community Centre.