

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held in the Peter Morrison Hall,  
Benslow Music School, Benslow Lane, Hitchin  
on Tuesday, 5th September, 2017 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nicola Harris (Chairman), Frank Radcliffe and Adrian Smith.

### 2 MINUTES - 27 JUNE 2017

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 June 2017 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Vice-Chairman thanked all who had attended Town Talk;
- (2) The Vice-Chairman welcomed all present at the meeting, particularly those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (3) The Vice-Chairman informed those present that, in accordance with Council Policy the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (4) The Vice-Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

### 5 FEASIBILITY STUDY RE LINK ROAD OFF STOTFOLD ROAD UPDATE

County Councillors Derrick Ashley and Judi Billing thanked the Vice-Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their work surrounding a feasibility study regarding a link road off Stotfold Road.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Committee and Member Services Officer be requested to circulate the Feasibility Study into the creation of a link road from Stotfold Road to the employment area in Hitchin;
- (2) That the Hitchin Committee supports the principal of a link road between Stotfold Road and the employment area in Hitchin, as detailed in the feasibility study;
- (3) That the Development and Conservation Manager be requested to provide a report to this Committee regarding the proposed Highover Farm development, prior to any planning application being considered, to enable this Committee to consider the infrastructure implications of that development.
- (4) That the Committee and Member Services Officer be requested to forward a copy of this Minute to the Development and Conservation Manager

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To inform Members of the Hitchin Committee about the detail included in the feasibility study into the creation of a link road from Stotfold Road to the employment area of Hitchin.

## 6 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The following Highways issues were discussed:

- North Hertfordshire Highways Liaison Meeting
- B656 – Park Street
- Junction Cambridge Road/Willian Road
- Sustainable Transport

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Chief Executive be requested to take the necessary steps to issue a prescriptive notice regarding the safety of the B656 – Park Street, in the vicinity of the Three Moorhens, that would require Hertfordshire Highways to take action in order to deal with the issues;
- (2) That County Councillor Billing be requested to ask Highways Officer to add the Junction of Cambridge Road/Willian Road to the list of sensitive areas, prone to flooding that require additional gully cleaning.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To improve safety on the road and pathways in Hitchin.

## 7 GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That all grants be allocated from the 2016/17 carry over amount of £10,570, until it is depleted;
- (2) That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Hitchin;
- (3) That the Communities Officer be requested to start and maintain a list of future projects to be used by Planning Officers when negotiating for Section 106 contributions;
- (4) That the Monitoring Officer be requested to consider changes to the Council's Constitution to allow small grants to be delegated to Area Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen where an event would take place prior to the next meeting of the Area Committee and that each Committee agree, on an annual basis, the parameters for that delegation.
- (5) That £2,000 be allocated from the 2016/17 base budget to provide a bench outside of Hitchin Town Hall.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To keep Members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in Hitchin.

## 8 CONSULTATION IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED STREET TRADING POLICY 2018 - 2025

Councillor Judi Billing declared a Declarable Interest as she was a Director of Hitchin Initiative. This was not a pecuniary interest and therefore she would remain in the room for the debate and any vote.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the report entitled Consultation in Relation to the Proposed Street Trading Policy 2018-2025 be noted;
- (2) That the Licensing Manager be requested to produce a report that addresses the reasons that responsibility for A boards and outside shop trading, such as cafes could not be transferred from Hertfordshire County Council to North Herts District Council and then delegated to the Town Centre Managers.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To provide local input into the proposed Street Trading Policy 2018-2025.

**9 HITCHIN TOWN CENTRE MANAGER**

Mr Keith Hoskins, Hitchin Town Centre Manager, had offered apologies that he was unable to attend this meeting.

**10 UPDATE ON THE GREEN SPACE STRATEGY - PLAY AREAS**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Councillors Harwood and Stears-Handscomb be requested to make a presentation to Cabinet regarding their findings and recommendations in respect of play areas;
- (2) That Hitchin Committee supports the recommendation made by Councillors Harwood and Stears-Handscomb as follows:

“That Cabinet be requested to recommend to Council that Special Expenses be used to retain the three play areas in Hitchin designated for removal of equipment.

- (3) That officers be requested to encourage an interested group to come forward, initially to take on running the three play areas in Hitchin designated for removal of equipment.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To enable the Hitchin Committee to consider ways in which it can support play areas in Hitchin.

**11 UPDATE FROM THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR HITCHIN AND HARPENDEN**

Members received a written update from Bim Afolami, Member of Parliament for Hitchin and Harpenden.

**12 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS**

The following issues were discussed

- Hitchin Boys School Planning Application
- The Dell
- Street Cleansing

**13 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** That the Democratic Services Manager be requested to present a written or verbal report to this Committee that outlined the processes and regulations regarding the upcoming renewal of the Hitchin BID.

**14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Councillor Claire Strong and Mr Robert Lord thanked the Vice-Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding Hitchin Town Twinning Association.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Councillor Strong and Mr Lord for their presentation.

**15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - RHYTHMS OF THE WORLD**

Mr Michael Woodward and Mr Andrew Harper, Trustees, thanked the Vice-Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding Rhythms of the World.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Mr Woodward and Mr Harper for their presentation.

**16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HAMMERSMATCH**

Mr Paul Payne, Blue Otter Limited, had given his apologies that he would be unable to attend the meeting.