

MINUTES OF LONGRIDGE ASSETS WORKING GROUP – 15 MARCH 2021 at 2.00pm

PRESENT

Cllr R Thompson (Chair)	Marshal Scott, Chief Executive
Cllr J Rogerson	John Heap, Director of Community Services
Cllr J Clark	Nicola Hopkins, Director of Econ Dev and Planning
Cllr S Hore	Mair Hill, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
	Colin Hirst, Head of Regeneration and Housing

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Knox

Cllr S Carefoot was not in attendance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2021 were approved as a correct.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations for this meeting other than Cllr Rogerson being President of Longridge Band (prospective facility user).

CORRESPONDENCE WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Nicola Hopkins reported where responses had been received from and briefly outlined them.

- Longridge Town Council
- Palace Theatre Group
- Love Longridge
- Andy McLaughlin
- Cllr A Humphreys and emails from other residents

Nothing had been received as yet from

- LSEC
- LCC
- Over 60's club (although contact had been made)

Longridge Town Council would like to be part of a working group to take this forward. They also wanted to follow up on the Town Centre Service Plan that emerges out of the Council's Economic Development Plan. This is currently difficult to progress until the recovery stage of the Covid 19 pandemic is hit.

Love Longridge had some good ideas based around establishing a purpose-built community facility which would mean disposing of current assets to fund the project.

The Chair reminded members that Community Services committee had agreed to ask Policy & Finance committee to sell off the King Street toilet block.

Andy McLaughlin's submission outlined a vision for Longridge where each asset/site (not just belonging to RVBC) could be sold off to provide the capital to reinvest into a new Civic Centre housing a host of facilities costing approximately £2.1m. The list of identified uses would be a good starting point to establish what types of uses there was a demand for in Longridge. Further discussions were needed with LCC.

The Chair raised the issue of the RVBC Depot site and whether this site could be vacated. It was acknowledged that it was used to house equipment and tools used on a daily basis in that part of the Borough. However, if alternative premises could be found in that vicinity of the Borough then other options could be considered.

LEGAL PACKS

Mair Hill had prepared a legal pack for the Youth & Community Centre, the Over 60's Club, the Over 60's flat and the Civic Hall that outlined the terms of the current leases, the obligations, whether there was a break clause and a latest condition survey. These would be examined to see if any action could be taken.

NEXT STEPS - ACTIONS:

- 1. Colin Hirst and Nicola Hopkins to meet with Longridge Town Council to explain the current situation with the Service Centre Action Plan;**
- 2. Colin Hirst and Nicola Hopkins to speak with LCC regarding their assets in Longridge and their use of our assets in Longridge and to chase up feedback from Directors of ELSEC;**
- 3. Nicola Hopkins to make a list of community uses which have a demand in Longridge;**
- 4. John Heap to prepare a report to Community Services committee reviewing the use of the works depot site in Longridge; and**
- 5. Mair Hill to look at the terms of the lease for the Youth and Community Centre regarding the rent review anniversary/surrender.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 2.00pm.

The meeting closed at 3.20pm.