**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HEREFORD**

**on Wednesday 3rd February 2016**

**Present:** Councillors Dykes, Griffiths, Lloyd-Hayes, Hey, Tawn, Stevens,

 Councillor Michael arrived at 6.15pm due to traffic congestion in the city

**OFFICERS ATTENDING –** Steve Kerry, Town Clerk, Eleanor Mason, Acting Administrative Officer

**P101 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Boulter, Councillor Lloyd-Hayes stood as Chairman until Councillor Michael arrived.

**P102 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES**

 There were no appointments of substitutes.

**P103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest under the Herefordshire Code of Conduct

pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of items on the agenda.

**P104 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE**

To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on the 13th January 2016.

**P105 DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**It was Resolved that the participation of those City Councillors who are also members of the County of Herefordshire District Council in both the debate and any subsequent vote on matters contained in this agenda is on the basis that the views expressed are preliminary views taking account of the information currently available to the City Council and that District Councillors reserve their final views on all applications until they are in full possession of all relevant information both for and against.**

**P106 POLICY ISSUES**

**106.1 Hereford Area Plan:**

The Town Clerk reported that a reference group will be established consisting of the Town Clerk and Cllr Michael agreed to join with him. It was suggested that one more to be added to create a balance of members across the City. Substitutes are to be allowed.

The racecourse is likely to be returning to sporting use which will suggest 15 years lease. Cllr Stevens is continuing to probe terms and conditions via FOI. This remains a concern especially if the lease allows for multiple uses. The ESG is still seen as an important housing site. Herefordshire Council are seeking a new housing ptr to replace Sanctuary; Canal Basin work is also planned in Phase II. Housing development was Phase 1 but that has so far ony delivered retail developments. University accommodation is in the HAP.

It was noted that the asset plan for Bath Street is to sell it off and not to use as land swap with fire and rescue, or to use it for student accommodation.

Concern was registered about an east river crossing as an addition to the relief road. The Council’s proposal was for a study of existing work to see if enough had already been done to make a case for this.

The Chair now passed to Cllr Michael who arrived at 6.20pm and apologies were noted.

Cllr Stevens reported that he had met with Jesse Norman MP regarding the Eastern RiverCrossing who has written to the Hereford Times.

The Town Clerk to write a letter to blue light services about the importance of emergency access and means of travel across the main bridge.

The Town Clerk will also possibly run a survey, electronically/vox pop etc. Jesse Norman MP has spoken to Tony Johnson and the Committee will follow up with a request for a meeting to look into a public consultation and a High Town stall to promote and engage with public opinion. This is to include the Great Western Way option as a complementary plan.

Cllr Michael requested that the HMO issue be prioritised under the Area Plan, it was confirmed that his had been agreed as part of the HAP at the meeting the Clerk held with officers at Herefordshire Council.

The Town Clerk is to write to the Police about enforcing the yellow boxes as it was noted that the severe traffic congestion experienced by members tonight had been in part caused by yellow box junctions becoming blocked with stationary traffic.

**106.2 Refurbishment of High Town**

The following points were discussed:

* During a meeting with Balfour Beatty the Town Clerk mentioned the planters and our contribution to paving creating a guided walk.
* Cllr Tawn noted the importance of the substructure being robust and that no further collapses of the footway/roadway happen such as those around HSBC.
* Lighting should be more imaginative with ambient lighting to enhance evening use appeal.
* The café culture is to be encouraged via landlords.
* A protective surface covering the footways will make cleaning much easier and should be included in the planning, together with mobile planters and as many trees as possible.
* Lamp columns must be reduced as they are renowned to be very obtrusive.
* High Town would benefit from an outdoor screen facility – this is a gathering space for people to congregate for outdoor films, shows, music etc.

**P107 CORRESPONDENCE**

 **Breinton Neighbour Plan** – There were no objections to this Plan.

**Travelers & Gypsies** – It was suggested that lots of small sites be made available and prepared using one of our brownfield sites subject to proper management of the site.

**Enforcement (MTF)** – It was agreed that Cllr Michael is to meet with Graham Powel. Victoria House is now seeing kerbs etc. being installed which is also done without having made a planning application.

**P108 PLANNING APLICATIONS**

**Resolved that the applications noted in the attached tables, and licensing matters attached, with the responses of the City Council be agreed and forwarded to the Planning Authority by the Clerk.**

**P109 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 24th February at 6 pm at the Town Hall.

Signed ……………………………………….

Date …………………………………………….

There being no other business the Chairman, declared the meeting closed at 7:40