

Minutes of the Romsey Forum

15th November 2018

Present:-

D / A Chillingworth, J Haddon, V Brice, J Hawksley, G Darby, F Pilkington, F Stokes, J H Jones, S Beasley, E/R Pratt, S Lees, John Bennett, L / R Hunt, J Parker, D Kingston, J Walker, S Bannerman, S Smith, D/S Hargreaves, N Adams-King, C Esplin-Jones, D Lovell, C Barrington-Brown, M Bull, G Morris, M Fowler, M Allison, M/R Robinson, N Daas.

Chair : Richard Jordan-Baker

Minutes : Carolyn Nixon

Speakers : Mavis Sawdy, Graham Smith, Mark Edgerley, Ian Tripp, Ian Richards

1 Apologies:- R Perry, F/B Sweeny, M Cooper, J Russell, I Bullivant, D Baverstock, L Brimelow, I Hibberd, G Massie, J/P Godwin, J Burnage, J Mason.

2 Minutes of the Romsey Forum held 6th Sept 2018 were agreed.

3 Matters Arising:- (item 6) the address for the new *visitromsey* website is www.visitromsey.org. It has proved difficult to remove the old site which was called *.co.uk*.

4. South of Town Centre consultation : Graham Smith (TVBC Head of Planning Policy)

Driven by Romsey Future – a joint community/local authority endeavour - the intention was to develop a shared vision for the future of the area encompassing the bus station, Crosfield Hall and Edwina Mountbatten House. This area might be widened to include Banning Street and Dukes Mill but would be dependent on engagement by landowners.

Consultants had been employed to develop a master plan and had already attended many public events during 2018, with the purpose of understanding local aspirations and concerns. Postcards had also been delivered to 2000 town centre residents, including all those living in the nearby flats. Discussions were being held with owners of the land in question, as well as all the businesses involved. It was important to stress that there had been no underlying plan behind the original concept of the consultation. Equally, expectations had to be tempered with reality.

A draft Masterplan was currently being drawn up, with consultation expected to begin in February 2019 and adoption planned for summer 2019. It was hoped that some suggested improvements could be initiated early in the process. Comments were actively invited through the website

www.romseyfuture.org.uk/south-of-town-centre-faqs.

5. Other Planning Matters : Graham Smith (TVBC)

The next Borough Local Plan : 150 comments on the *Issues and Options* document had been received during the consultation period and could be viewed on the TVBC website. (planning-and-building/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/)

Romsey Brewery site : The developer was currently appealing against the decision that he should provide affordable dwellings on the site. The appeal would be heard in front of an Inspector at the Crosfield Hall on 28 Nov. TVBC had received two Government funding awards to pay for legal advice with regard to forcing the developer to recommence building on the site. The resulting advice was that the council would be unlikely to succeed in any action for compulsory purchase and that they should await the result of the appeal, expected within 8 weeks. [NB the appeal was subsequently dismissed, on a technical issue, which would appear to allow a further appeal to be held in the future]

Planned Whitenap estate : A 'vulnerable impact assessment' was currently being made and would be issued as a public document. The engagement process would begin in 2019.

6. Romsey Riverwalk Restoration : Mavis Sawdy

The work on river bank reinforcement and restoration between Sadlers Mill and Middlebridge had taken 3 years and was now complete. The total cost had been £52k and had been raised through council grants, business and other donations. Much of the labour involved had been provided voluntarily by local individuals and community groups. Steps had been installed to allow dogs to access the water without damaging the bank. The project leaders had formed a community interest company (CIC) in 2017, at which point the landowner had transferred title of The Causeway to the CIC, which would now be responsible for ongoing maintenance. (Full report and feedback form attached)

As part of the flood alleviation planning, the Environment Agency was now proposing to dig channels through the surface of The Causeway, in order to allow run-off from the adjacent fields at the foot of Pouncefoot Hill. This would entail the construction of two bridges to carry residents' vehicles along the access road. The EA was consulting with the CIC on how best to ameliorate the impact of this necessary work.

7. Romsey Flood Action Group:

Ian Tripp (Environment Agency)/ Ian Richards

After the severe flooding of winter 2013/14, small groups in the various town areas affected had combined to form a pressure group. This had since met regularly with land owners, the Environment Agency, HCC/TVBC and Southern Water, the latter because of issues with waste water, particularly in Winchester Road. Joint funding was being sought to improve drainage systems in this location. The major flood alleviation work was due to begin in March 2019, with the main intention being to better control the flow of the Test from further up the Valley at times of high rainfall. A new control structure at the head of Fishlake Stream, together with some bank raising, will direct flood water into the western flood plain away from the town. This flood plain flow will re-join the Test at Middlebridge, passing through spillways incorporated into the Causeway.

It was stated that the Tadburn Lake was not considered a flood risk but that it was regularly monitored. The area designated for new housing at Whitenap was not considered to be on a flood plain but it was thought that a system of balancing ponds would need to be dug, in order to restrict run off to no more than that equivalent to natural green field run-off.

8 Town Centre Report: Mark Edgerley (Town Centre Manager. (dates already advised to members)

Events in December included the Lights Switch On, the Lantern Parade, Carols in the Market Place and, what might be the last Car Meet on Boxing Day. The Crosfield Hall car park would be unavailable to the public in the late afternoon of 24 Nov, in order to accommodate the Carnival parade.

Romsey Rapids swimming pool was being refurbished and would be closed until February. All other facilities there would remain open.

Town Council information was now regularly uploaded onto its website, which also has a community noticeboard, where groups can send their posters.

www.romseytc.org.uk/community_noticeboard.html

Market Place Improvements : it was expected that the work, contracted to Knights Brown (Raymond Brown) would begin in early January. A 'drop-in' session was planned at the Town Hall in November, to explain how traffic flow would be managed. It was expected that there would be very few road closures and the regular market would not be affected. Updates on the scheme can be obtained from HCC website under transport schemes/marketplacromsey.

9 Any Other Business.

British Legion poppies : the Town Council had set up a recycling point in the Town Hall, which could be used until the end of November.

10 Dates of Forum meetings 2019 : 14th March, 27th June, 19th September, 21st November.