



Date: 13 November 2012

Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

*A Borough to be proud of*

To: **All Members of Council**

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear Councillor,

Please see overleaf a Supplementary Agenda for the meeting of the **COUNCIL** on **TUESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2012 at 6.30 pm.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Owen'.

Rebecca Owen  
Democratic Services Officer

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

7. **TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11.1**

- (a) Question from Councillor Sprason, addressed to Councillor Bray

“Will the leader ensure that this authority will deal with the sale of cars on the roadside that is an issue at Leicester Road, Field Head, Markfield?”

The Borough Council is able to take up the powers under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 and introduce a street banning order. Blaby District Council has recently done this – by making a particular street a “Prohibited Street”, under the Act street trading can be banned and action can be taken against individuals who break the ban (i.e. offering vehicles for sale on the highway). So will the leader commit his full support and resources for the immediate introduction of a “Prohibited Street” at Leicester Road, Field Head, Markfield”.

Response from Councillor Gould

I am advised that Blaby District Council introduced a “consented streets” policy under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982, rather than “prohibited streets” to address issues relating to problems arising from mobile food vendors trading across their district in a similar manner to the controls this authority has used for Hinckley Town Centre. Consents streets allow trading following the issue of an annual consent from the Council and apply conditions for controlling the number, trades and operations of the vendor. Blaby District Council advise that the issue of car sales on the streets was not part of their decision making process for the introduction of this policy. They also have not used this against persons selling cars on the highway due to concerns over the effectiveness of enforcement.

Officers from this Council have sought advice from other authorities across the country as to using this approach and could find none that had actually used it. The County Council has been promoting this approach whilst stating that solutions under appropriate legislation that they enforce are too expensive for them to consider. The implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders controlling the parking of vehicles would address this issue and others residents’ concerns relating to the parking of vehicles at Markfield. Enforcement is against the registered keeper of the vehicle rather than seeking to identify the seller of the vehicle. Your officers and other agencies have sought to identify these sellers with limited success. Implementation of legislation which can be considered dubious in its effectiveness for this type of problem would be a cost to this authority with no guarantee of resolving the particular problem at Markfield. Notwithstanding this I have requested that this problem is reviewed through the Endeavour multi agency team, the Highways Forum and that through joint working the most appropriate legislation is encouraged to be used to resolve the concerns of residents. We will also issue publicity warning of the risks of purchasing vehicles off the highway following consultation with Leicestershire County Council Trading Standards.

(b) Question from Councillor Bessant, addressed to Councillor Bray

With the Authority due to vacate this building in matter of weeks, would the leader of the council please update members on progress in securing the £3M capital receipt from the site as promised to residents of this Borough is his recent Medium Term Financial Strategy?

Response from Councillor Lynch

I thank Cllr Bessant for asking this question. As he is fully aware the MTFFS is not a promise it is a strategy which like all good strategies has to be flexible and which is rolled forward and updated with every annual budget or change in circumstances.

The original concept for potential development on the Argents Mead park could have realised the sort of returns originally suggested on developments around the periphery of the site including possible joint developments with the vicarage site (which is no longer possible) and the other sites that did not meet with general approval such as development on a part of the Mount Rd. car park.

This administration has been consistent in considering acceptable a suitable development on a part of the site that is sympathetic to the Mead and areas around the current offices. Having consulted on options for a retirement village that would in principal have met this requirement, the current depressed economic climate has meant that the responses to the tender invitation were poor and none of the responses would have delivered an acceptable capital receipt for the Council.

We have reacted very quickly in considering the option of building a new leisure centre on this site and the option appraisal which is contained in the report to be considered by Council under Agenda Item 10 supports that proposal. This will mean that the Leisure Centre, which will embrace the green areas of the Mead, will remain in the Town Centre and the footfall will continue to support businesses in Hinckley and thereby ensure the continued vibrancy of the town centre. This option will also generate a capital receipt of up to £2.2million towards the funding of the new Leisure Centre from the sale of the existing site. I will also point out to Councillor Bessant that funding for the new leisure centre has been fully considered and budgetary provision has been made to deliver a realistic and affordable facility, unlike the fanciful and ill formed proposal of the previous Conservative administration.

(c) Question from Councillor Bessant, addressed to Councillor Bray

Would the lead member for planning please update Members on progress of the Barwell SUE and when he expects the full application to come forward to planning committee, and what his best guess is for ground to be broken on this development?

Response from Councillor Bray

I can confirm good progress is being made in bringing together the technical requirements and identifying the community infrastructure proposals for the Barwell SUE planning application. The target date for consideration of the application by Planning Committee is March 2013. I am informed by the Developer that, subject to approval in March 2013, the first phases of the development would start early 2014, with the first houses being completed later that year.

## 8. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT

Mr Mayor, fellow Councillors, Officers, members of the public and the media.

Tonight we will consider two items of great significance for the future economic and social well-being for Hinckley and the surrounding area: the Development Agreement with the developer of the Bus Station site to enable the first practical action to be taken on that site; and a decision on the future location of our leisure centre, with an exciting option being presented for our consideration. I will leave discussion on that for the relevant time on tonight's agenda, but urge Members to recognise that we have a rare opportunity to unite to make decisions which will secure great benefits for our main town.

Adopting the recommendations before us will ensure that we give leadership, hope and certainty to our communities in a time when finances are increasingly tight. Whilst there remains uncertainty about announcements from the government in late December, with the Local Government Settlement being announced later than ever before (probably on 19 December) and the still to be determined details of Council Tax Discount and Retention of Business Rates, because of the way this Council manages its financial affairs, we are able to drive forward positive change in the confident expectation of success, built on a further round of efficiencies secured for 2013/14. We should all be proud of that!

We should be proud also of our continuing efforts to maintain 'Fairtrade' status and the way in which we are engaging young people in the work of the Council: an important investment for the future.

We continue to lobby the government to review and change its stance on many planning issues, most recently on Permitted Development Rights, on which matter I wrote to the Secretary of State at the end of October and on which a formal consultation has now been issued.

As part of the District Councils' Network, we have finally achieved a measure of success in the now imminent increase in the level of Planning Fees set by the Government. They should be increased, after a gap of four years, at the end of this month.

We have very recently secured the final agreement on the Regional Growth Fund investment to enable long-awaited improvements to the A5, work on which will commence in 2013. On this issue, and that of Planning Fees, we have achieved success through patience and determination, always remembering the reasons for which we do this work: our residents and businesses

Alongside all of that, we remain constructive and often leading local partners in work relating to Supporting People in Leicestershire (formerly the Troubled Families initiative), Project Endeavour and Health and Well-being. In addition, we have continued a limited 'free parking' initiative in Hinckley town centre, which yet again will be enhanced by our subsidising free parking in long stay car parks for the pre-Christmas period, thus giving encouragement to people to shop in the town, providing further support and hope for shops and other local businesses. This has been welcomed by the Town Centre Partnership at its meeting last night.

Perhaps the most visible evidence of our partnership credentials is the Hinckley Hub, now nearing completion and into which the main Council operations will move at the end of January 2013. Adult Social Care and Children's Services from the County Council will move into the building in the months following January and we now have formal confirmation of the agreement from Job Centre Plus to join us around September/October 2013. Negotiations with the Probation Service are also at an advanced stage and the signs are very promising that the Hub will be fully occupied by the end of 2013. The fact

that so many public services will be working together from the same building is a fantastic prize to have secured, as it will significantly improve the public services offer to the people in our Borough. Yet another achievement of which we should all be very proud!

Mr Mayor, there remain a number of financial issues on which Government have yet to make announcements and on which there arises a degree of uncertainty. Whatever the content of those announcements, which will have made them by the next time we meet, the people of Hinckley and Bosworth can be assured that this Council will continue to work and fight on their behalf, locally and nationally.

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