

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal Advisory Group

Monday 04 March 2024, 17:30 – 19:00

Institute of Technology and Microsoft Teams

<p>Attendees: Cllr Veronica Belcher (VB) West Bletchley Council, Darrel Canvin (DC) MKCC, Clare Baars-Gordon (CBG) Leon Residents Association, Valda Stuckey (VS) BPARA Residents Association, Yvette Lamidey (YL) Federation of Small Businesses, Mags Noble (MN) Representative for Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr Ayesha Khanom (AK) Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Councillor, Cllr Nigel Long (NL) Ward Councillor, Cllr Ed Hume (EH) Ward Councillor, Cllr Waqas Ahmad (WA) Ward Councillor, Cllr Mohammed Khan (MK) Ward Councillor, Roger Bradbury (RB) Water Eaton Residents Association, I Hussain (IH) Representative for Neighbourhood Plan, Jay Virgo (JV) Q Alliance</p>
<p>Apologies: Cllr Emily Darlington, Mariee Wymer, Arosh Ali, Lorraine Andrews, Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson, Cllr Mo Imran, Rich Lee</p>
<p>Action Notes: Emma Pierce (EP) MKCC</p>

	Discussion items	Action Owner
1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>VB opened the meeting and noted apologies. The group welcomed Jay Virgo, representative at Q Alliance. JV said that they were happy to provide further help, particularly around proofreading and ensuring that materials also cater to those who are neurodivergent.</p>	
2.	<p>Recap of minutes and actions from previous meeting</p> <p>The Advisory Group Terms of Reference were approved at the December Town Deal Board. There may be further iterations to the TOR as the group evolves (particularly membership).</p> <p>Action: Remove the “draft” watermark from the ToR.</p> <p>Action: Share Commonplace platform examples of community engagement with the group.</p> <p>The majority of attendees confirmed that they have started to receive the monthly Bletchley & Fenny Stratford newsletter, however several confirmed that it had not been received.</p> <p>Action: To check and ensure all Advisory Group members are included on the Bletchley & fenny Stratford newsletter distribution list.</p>	<p>MKCC</p> <p>MKCC</p> <p>MKCC</p>

3.	<p>Update on Community Engagement work</p> <p><u>Group representation</u></p> <p>The group discussed membership of the Advisory Group.</p> <p>CB has been in touch with several youth organisations and invited Jay Virgo from Q Alliance to attend the meeting. JV provided a background on their work with Q Alliance and how they could assist with communications and youth engagement activities.</p> <p>RB asked about disability group representation on the Advisory Group. The group agreed that a representative should be sought and YL identified the Centre for Integrated Living, who may be able to provide a representative.</p> <p>Action: The group will continue to identify additional wider representation, including a disability group representative.</p> <p><u>Community Engagement – Hemingway Report</u></p> <p>DC provided an update on the phase 1 community engagement work that Hemingway Design have been commissioned to lead. This includes an audit of the Town Deals existing communication channels, interviews with stakeholders and a production of a report.</p> <p>The draft report has just been received by MKCC and internal feedback is being sought before wider circulation. The report highlights key issues and provides recommendations that MKCC should adopt to improve engagement on the Town Deal programme (see PowerPoint presentation for further information).</p> <p>Action: To share the Hemingway findings/recommendations with the group and the full report at an appropriate time.</p> <p>DC requested initial feedback from the group from the verbal update on the community engagement findings. The group agreed it was difficult to provide meaningful feedback before seeing the report in full (see previous action).</p> <p>The group discussed issues around consultation on the parking study. Some of the meetings generated very little interest, despite being a key issue in Bletchley & Fenny. The group highlighted that there were issues with messaging, venue, accessibility, timing of meetings and overall consultation fatigue.</p> <p>Previous discussion had identified the option of using small information cards that could be provided to the Advisory Group and distributed to the public. These cards would include links to essential information on the Town Deal programme and wider regeneration.</p> <p>Action: MKCC to create a draft information card for the Advisory Group and seek feedback for members.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>MKCC</p> <p>MKCC</p>
----	--	------------------------------------

	<p>The group also discussed speaking with local Schools and see if they would share information on the Town Deal on their newsletters.</p> <p>The group advised that whilst the focus should be on adopting the recommendations of the report, it is essential that this does not prohibit delivery of the programme. It was also recommended that the Hemingway report be adopted as a best practise Council document.</p> <p><u>Pre-election period</u></p> <p>DC advised that MKCC wish to use the Advisory Group to help inform and plan the consultation events planned in June.</p> <p>It was raised that the pre-election period may cause some complications in planning these events and that guidance needs to be sought on how the group can get involved during this period. This is due the need for political neutrality.</p> <p>Action: To confirm if there are any restrictions on using the Advisory Group for helping to plan the consultations during the pre-election period. To also confirm the key timeline and dates for this engagement.</p> <p>It was agreed that depending on the advice received, there is a need for an additional meeting for the Advisory Group to help plan the consultations.</p> <p>Action: To look at options for an extra Advisory Group meeting to take place in April/May depending on the pre-election restrictions.</p> <p><u>Community feedback between meetings</u></p> <p>The group discussed what methods could be adopted for providing feedback between meetings and ensuring that any feedback is captured appropriately.</p> <p>Action: Programme team to explore what systems can be used to share feedback and produce a draft to be shared with the group.</p> <p>The group identified several events which could be used to spread awareness and engage further on the Town Deal programme. This includes the 'Love Bletchley Day'.</p> <p>The group discussed the Brunel Centre consultation and noted that, whilst there was issues in how this consultation was conducted, there were also several positives, including the 'you said, we did' and tracked changes report which showed how feedback received had been incorporated.</p> <p>WA noted that there are misunderstandings on what the regeneration is delivering. This includes an idea that there will be a road connection from Buckingham Road / Saxon Street into Queensway.</p>	<p>MKCC</p> <p>MKCC</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Programme Update</p> <p>Action: To send the latest programme update papers to group members.</p>	<p>MKCC</p>

5.	AOB No other business was raised.	
----	---	--

Meeting concluded at 19:00