

MINUTES OF THE FARINGDON JOINT ECONOMIC FORUM (JEF) HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2011 IN THE OLD TOWN HALL, FARINGDON

1. Present:

- a. Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC):** Cllr Roger Cox (Chairman), Cllr Jim Halliday, Cllr Robert Sharp.
- b. Faringdon Town Council (FTC):** Cllr Margaret Barker (Mayor), Cllr Jane Boulton, Cllr Andrew Marsden, Cllr Mike Wise.
- c. Other Organizations:** Colin Desborough, Jane Haynes.
- d. Co-opted Members:** Gavin Hopkins (Farcycles).
- e. In attendance:** Trudy Godfrey.

2. Apologies for Absence

Nick Elwell, Cllr Judith Heathcoat, Cllr Kevin Herbert, Cllr Julie Farmer, Christopher Marriott, Alison Moore, Cllr Alison Thomson, Sally Thurston, Eddie Williams.

3. Declarations of Interest. None.

4. Strategy and Action Plan for Faringdon and Wantage

Trudy Godfrey reported that an event was being planned by the VWHDC for 17 Feb 11 at Sudbury House, Faringdon from 6pm to 8 pm, to discuss the economic future of Faringdon. The event will be an open meeting and all residents of Faringdon and the surround villages will be invited to discuss issues regarding the future prosperity of the town and to identify what actions could be taken to promote them. The event will be facilitated by Matt Prosser, Strategic Director VWHDC.

5. SEEDA Small Rural Towns Funding – Project Reports

- a. Folly Tower.** Eddie Williams tabled a written report dated 10 Jan 11 that was distributed to members detailing the work to the Folly Tower. It had progressed well until it was stopped by bad weather in December that delayed work by 4 to 6 weeks. It was envisaged that contractors would be back on-site in late January.
- b. Skate Board Park.** Trudy Godfrey reported that Faringdon SK8 had submitted a planning application on 6 Jan 11 and expected a response by the end of Feb 11. SK8 would shortly be issuing a letter of intent to employ their preferred

contractor. There would be a period of consultation in March and the build should be complete by the end of the summer.

c. Communications. Jane Haynes tabled a written report dated 13 Jan 11 which covered the 3 main projects: the Folly Tower, Skate Board Park and Communications. She reported that the Focus on Faringdon town guide had been printed. Walking and cycling cards were in progress, and they had tendered for design and printing.

6. Progress Reports:

a. Faringdon Area Project. The FAP AGM is due to be held on 2 Feb 11 at Woodhouse Farm. It was noted that ante-natal classes will be starting soon in Faringdon.

b. Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce AGM is due to be held on 14 Mar 11 and had nothing to report.

c. Faringdon Association of Residents. FAR was due meet in two weeks' time and had nothing to report.

d. Farcycles. Gavin Hopkins explained that Farcycles was an informal cycling group that met on Saturdays at 9am in the Market Place. There are 150 members and 60 regular cyclists. They use 4 main routes covering 45 miles or 3.5 hours and the shortest route was 6 to 7 miles long. The group would like to develop cycle-tourism, and was preparing routes and websites for this. The group had made significant comment into the OCC transport strategy.

7. Economic Development News from Abingdon and Wantage

a. Abingdon. The Choose Abingdon Partnership had purchased ten gazebos for community use at different events; they had refurbished the town maps; introduced a loyalty card scheme. The community shop was working well; they had produced a walking and cycling booklet. Abingdon Museum at the County Hall was currently undergoing extensive refurbishment and will re-open in Sep 11.

b. Wantage. Wantage Chamber of Commerce had improved the www.wantage.com website and features all local businesses. The walking and cycling cards project was in progress. They were investigating the possibility of applying for Southern Oxfordshire Leader funding.

Trudy Godfrey advised that the People's Million was now open for capital bids. Community-led capital projects have until 4 Feb 11 to submit applications.

8. Financial Report. Cllr Robert Sharp reported that JEF had a credit balance of £1,413.52. It was anticipated that in the coming year the VWHD would contribute £1,000 plus £200 expenses and the Faringdon Town Council £1,000 matched funding.

9. Civil War. Jane Haynes was asked to co-ordinate with Cllr John Gillman on the availability of the Sealed Knot Society for this project.

10. Heritage Weekend. Jane Haynes was asked to co-ordinated with the Civil War project.

11. Any Other Business. Cllr Boulton advised that she was resurrecting the Carnival probably in Tucker Park in July using Garretts' Fair and she will be forming a committee to run it. Note date to avoid 24 Jun 11 opening of new Cricket Club.

Action: Sec to include the Carnival as an agenda item for the next meeting.

12. Next Meetings. The next meetings will take place in the OTH at 7pm on Thursday 14 July 2010 and Thursday 6 October 2011.

Action: Secretary to make OTH bookings. Sec

Trudy Godfrey

T GODFREY
Secretary