

# Faringdon Joint Economic Forum - Draft

## 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009

### MINUTES OF THE FARINGDON JOINT ECONOMIC FORUM MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010 AT 7PM IN THE OLD TOWN HALL, FARINGDON

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Robert Sharp, Christopher Marriott, Alison Moore, Julie Farmer, Tim Evans.

#### 2. Declaration of interest

Action reqd by:

None declared.

#### 3. Minutes of the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009

The minutes of the meeting were approved by AT and seconded by RH subject to drafting amendments.

All agreed

#### 4. Matters arising – not elsewhere on this agenda

RC proposed to formally co-opt Alison Moore (Womens' Institute). This was seconded by MB. It was resolved to formally co-opt Alison Moore.

All agreed

#### 5. Oxfordshire Market Towns Funding

NE reported that the Oxfordshire Market Towns Network had reviewed applications from Faringdon, Wantage and Thame and Faringdon had an 'in principle' recommendation for 3 projects in respect of the Small Rural Towns Programme.

Those parts of the proposals that the OMT Network wished to see supported were: The Folly Tower, Skate Park and the Community Bus. These projects should now be progressed and Faringdon JEF should now think about reviewing and strengthening their Operational Delivery Proposal (Form 2). Once this – forms 2 and 2b - has been re-submitted, then the projects will be subject to formal appraisal with assessors visiting the towns. This will be arranged when the JEF indicate readiness to proceed (most likely sometime between February and April). This formal appraisal is done by assessors from other counties in the South East. This will be organised by Sue Scott who will let us know the format in due course.

NE advised that the JEF may consider appealing against the projects that were unsuccessful.

XX proposed that we concentrate on progressing the projects that the OMTN wish to support. This was seconded by RW?. It was resolved that the JEF concentrate on strengthening the Operational Delivery Proposal (Form 2) and in getting ready for the appraisal by external assessors.

NE to meet with Sue Scott and TG on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

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Eddie Williams agreed to take the lead on the Folly Tower project. Jon Chamberlain – as Chair of Faringdon Community Bus Ltd - would be the project lead for the Community Bus Project. NE agreed to discuss the Skate Park with David Mepham (who is a youth worker with Oxfordshire County Council) to explore whether he might be interested in taking the project forward. We discussed the need to explore where liability would lie as regards to the ongoing maintenance and insurance costs associated with the Skate Park.

NE / TG to strengthen Forms 2 & 2b.

NE to discuss the Skate Park project with David Mepham

### 6. Progress Report on Faringdon Area Project

DS gave an update on the FAP. Faringdon eco-week project won the prestigious National Market Towns Award on Tuesday October 13 at the Action for Market Towns Convention in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. Faringdon eco-week was presented by Sjoerd Vogt and the FAP have received congratulations from SEEDA.

Following Faringdon's national win, the FAP has been invited to host the 2010 regional awards presentation 'Celebrating Success in the South East.' This would allow other town partnerships to benefit from Faringdon's experience. As a host Faringdon would provide a venue for up to 40 delegates from 9am to 4pm, provide catering for tea coffee and a sandwich lunch, provide a speaker for the day and 2 greeters / stewards and a one hour study tour of the project / town centre. AMT can contribute £500 towards the costs. We discussed the possibility of putting a bid into the JEF / Town Council to match fund the £500 contribution from AMT. We discussed the possibility of using the Jubilee Room in the Pump Rooms. ST would check venue capacity of the Pump Rooms. TW agreed to investigate car parking in Faringdon for the event. NE agreed to ask Sjoerd Vogt if this event could tie in with eco week (12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010). MW and DS are to choose a suitable date for the Celebrating Success in the South East event.

ST would check venue capacity of the Pump Rooms.

TW agreed to investigate car parking in Faringdon for the event.

NE to ask SV about 'CSSE'

DS offered thanks to the Vale of White Horse District Council for the £2,500 grant given to FAP. This year it is proposed that the grant will be £1,000. FAP have also been given £200 from the 41 Club which has been earmarked for the Benefits Group. Thanks were also offered to Jane Haynes and Nick Elwell for their generosity.

### 7. Faringdon Arts Festival

NE advised that Julie Farmer and David Reynolds were stepping down as principal organisers of the Faringdon Arts Festival. JF would like to continue to be involved but not to take the lead. NE advised that he had a list of around 80 people who would like to be involved in the Festival. NE proposed to take a lead in organising the FAF and would involve authors, artists, young musicians, choral groups and schools. It was also noted that 2010 would be the sixty year anniversary of the death of Lord Berner. NE proposed that the

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JEF might use £1,000 to support the FAF. This was seconded by AT. The committee voted [8 in favour, 0 against]. The committee resolved that the JEF would use £1,000 to support the FAF.

### 8. Market Towns Strategy and Action Plan

TW advised that the VWHDC was preparing a Strategy and Action Plan for Market Towns. Councillor Webb will be consulting on this Strategy in due course and will invite the JEF to comment and ensure the community is involved. The VWHDC is committing human resource to lever in funding from other sources to deliver the Action Plans.

RW to invite comment from JEF on Market Towns Strategy and Action Plan.

RW advised that economic development was a corporate priority for the Council and we would be committing time and effort to encourage vibrant market towns. JH requested that a future Agenda item be added to JEF meetings for Vale officers to circulate news from Abingdon and Wantage.

TG to add 'news from Abingdon and Wantage' to future Agendas

### 9. Thriving Economies Fund

TG advised that Faringdon was eligible to submit an application for up to £5,000 for a project that fit with the criteria of the Oxfordshire Towns Thriving Economies Fund. An initial conversation with the project co-ordinator (Philip Newbould) suggested that this funding could be used to help to stage an event in Faringdon – which would have to be either a new event or an event that because of the funding was able to be significantly improved / different. This could also be used to help celebrate the life of Lord Berner given his connections to Faringdon and coinciding with the sixty year anniversary of his death in 2010.

NE proposed that the JEF should submit an application form to the Thriving Economies Fund on for the Faringdon. This was seconded by CD. Committee voted [Agree 7, opposed 0]. The committee resolved that NE and TG should submit and Expression of Interest for the Thriving Economies Fund.

NE/TG to submit an EOI for the Thriving Economies Fund

### 10. Any Other Business

ST advised that Faringdon TIC would like to represent Faringdon at two Tourism events in Oxfordshire in February and March. TG advised that the VWHDC had booked some tables at these events and that ST was more than welcome to join forces and promote Faringdon.

ST to attend tourism events with VWHDC officers

The meeting rose at 9.10pm

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## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FARINGDON JOINT ECONOMIC FORUM (JEF) HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010 AT 7.00PM IN THE OLD TOWN HALL, FARINGDON**

### **Present:**

#### **Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC):**

- Cllrs Alison Thomson (voting)
- Roger Cox (voting)
- Jim Halliday (voting)
- Cllr Richard Webber (non voting)

#### **Faringdon Town Council (FTC):**

- Cllr Margaret Barker (voting)
- Andrew Marsden (voting)
- Sally Thurston (non voting)
- Cllr Jane Boulton (voting)
- Cllr Keven Herbert (voting)
- Cllr John Gillman (voting).

#### **'Other Organisations' :**

- Colin Desborough (voting) (Faringdon Association of Residents)
- Nick Elwell (Faringdon Chamber of Commerce/Focus on Faringdon/Faringdon Area Project) (voting)
- Daphne Saunders (voting) (Faringdon Area Project)
- Eddie Williams (non voting) (Faringdon Folly Tower Trust)
- Cllr Judith Heathcoat (non-voting) (Oxfordshire County Council).

**Ex-officio (non-voting):** Mayor of Faringdon (Cllr Mike Wise) (non voting).

#### **In attendance:**

- Toby Warren (non-voting) (VWHDC officer)
- Oliver O'Dell (non-voting) (member of public)
- Trudy Godfrey (non-voting) (VWHDC officer and secretary of the meeting).

#### **Apologies:**

- Robert Sharp (voting) (VWHDC)
- Christopher Marriott (voting) (Faringdon Chamber of Commerce)
- Alison Moore (non voting) (Women's Institute)
- Julie Farmer (voting) (South Faringdon Residents Association)
- Tim Evans (non voting) (Chair of Twinning)