



St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party

**Record of a Meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2011  
at 5.00 pm in the Conference Chamber West (F1R09),  
West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds**

**Present** *(please tick if present)*

Cockle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Everitt (Chairman)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hordern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mrs Mildmay-White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nettleton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oliver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rout	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mrs Stamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs P A Warby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Substitutes**

Beckwith	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buckle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Griffiths	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Hind	<input type="checkbox"/>
F J Warby	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**By Invitation**

Councillors Buckle and Clements and Mark Cordell, Chief Executive of Bid4Bury.

**Officers in attendance**

Andrea Mayley, Sandra Pell and Ivan Sams.

**1. Substitutes**

No substitutions were declared.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

**3. Minutes**

Subject to the amendment to the spelling of Councillor Hordern in the list of those Councillors present, the record of a meeting held on 31 May 2011 were confirmed.

#### **4. Declarations of Interests**

Councillor Oliver declared a personal interest as a Member of Bury St Edmunds Town Council and remained in the meeting for all the items. No other declarations were declared.

#### **5. Terms of Reference**

##### ***RECOMMENDED:-***

***That, the Terms of Reference, contained in agenda item 5 of the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party agenda dated 19 July 2011 be approved, subject to:-***

***paragraph (b) being amended to read:-***

***'to consider proposals arising from any major development in Bury St Edmunds and make recommendations to the Cabinet where necessary.'; and***

***paragraph (c) amended to read:-***

***'to consider service related and other issues and liaise with the Bury St Edmunds Town Council and other organisations as appropriate'***

On 25 May 2011, the Cabinet reviewed its Working Parties and other Groups, including membership and Terms of Reference. Arising from that meeting, each Working Party have been requested to review, and amend where necessary, their Terms of Reference.

During the discussion the Working Party considered it advisable that item (b) should be amended following the completion of the Cattle Market site and item (c) amended to reflect wider consultations as appropriate.

*(The items were discussed in a different order to that printed on the agenda.)*

#### **6. Business Festival 2011 (Report C73)**

The Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party noted the arrangements being made to stage the Business Festival 2011 as outline in Report C73.

A Business Festival is being arranged to start on 13 September until 23 September 2011 with a series of business focussed events and workshops at various locations in and around Bury St Edmunds. Events include the Mid Anglian Enterprise Agency's (Menta) Business to Business (B2B) exhibition at the West Wing, Ickworth; the Exhibition of Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (EAME) at The Apex; the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Annual Conference at The Apex; the Bury Free Press Business to Business (B2B) Exhibition at The Athenaeum, a joint Chambers of Commerce event at the West Wing, Ickworth; and Business Training Workshops run by West Suffolk College.

The programme is still in the process of being finalised along with a web page. The Bury Free Press is a key partner in this initiative and will provide much of the promotional activity to ensure the events are a success.

## **7. Town Centre Lettings/Vacancies: Update**

The Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party noted a presentation from the Economic Development Manager which updated Members on the latest position regarding the letting of commercial elements of the town centre.

The vacancy rate for Bury St Edmunds town centre was 7.2% and was in the range considered healthy by the Association of Town Centre Managers.

RESOLVED:- That,:-

Benchmarking information would be presented to a future meeting of the Working Party.

## **8. Bid4Bury Update (Report C72)**

The Chairman welcomed Mark Cordell, Chief Executive of Bid4Bury, who presented the report.

The Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party noted the progress of Bid4Bury as outlined in Report C72.

A Business Improvement District (BID) is an established national initiative whereby local businesses/stakeholders within a defined area vote upon whether they wish to contribute an additional element of their business rates towards their own defined priorities. In 2009, 465 businesses in Bury St Edmunds town centre were given the opportunity to vote for or against the establishment of a BID. Following a positive result Bid4Bury was formed. From 1 April 2010, all of the businesses within the defined BID area with a rateable value of £10,000 and greater were obliged to pay 1.75% of their rateable value each year for the following 5 years.

Bid4Bury has been in existence for 15 months. In February 2011, the Chief Executive and his assistant were appointed. With key appointments in place the bid has really begun to make a difference for its businesses and the town in general. The Bid4Bury Business Plan includes six main project areas:-

- (i) marketing (the town as a whole);
- (ii) safety and Security;
- (iii) Christmas season (festive lights and events);
- (iv) environment;
- (v) events; and
- (vi) business support.

## **9. Temporary Park and Ride Site (Report C74)**

### ***RECOMMENDED:-***

***That, the initiative to provide a temporary park and ride site at land owned by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (site E2), as shown in Appendix A to Report C74, be funded by Suffolk County Council subject to:-***

- (a) discussion relating to the current interests in the site being concluded; and***
- (b) any necessary planning consent being obtained.***

Report A678 was submitted to the Working Party in May 2010 which identified the need for a temporary Park and Ride facility. Due to the ever increasing popularity of the Christmas Fayre, car parking reached capacity in 2010 and provision of a temporary facility would enable the periods of exceptional demand to be met. Additionally parking capacity is also likely to be diminished this year as the 100 plus spaces at Shire Hall previously available on weekends have been sold as part of Suffolk County Council's sale of the office complex.

The project for a temporary Park and Ride facility was approved by Cabinet and supported by Suffolk County Council with financial funding and a site was identified at Rougham airfield. Early negotiations with the owners were positive, however negotiations with the owners' land agents have not been successful and no agreement can be reached. An alternative site has been identified and is currently designated for employment use.

The Working Party considered that the temporary car park should be used for other events and it was agreed that officers would investigate the opportunities.

## **10. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party confirmed the dates for future meetings as listed on the agenda.

## **11. Conclusion of Meeting**

The meeting concluded at 6.35 pm.

This record has been completed by Ivan Sams.