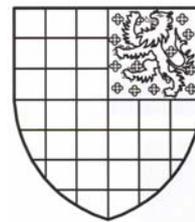Town Hall
High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2QS

☎ 01273 471469 **Fax:** 01273 480919
✉   info@lewes-tc.gov.uk
🖱   www.lewes-tc.gov.uk

LEWES TOWN COUNCIL

M I N U T E S

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed **to address traffic-related issues in Lewes**
held on **Thursday 21st February 2013**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall**, Lewes at **6:30pm.**

PRESENT   Cllrs S Catlin (Wischhusen); L F Li; M Milner *(Chairman)*; S Murray; R O'Keeffe. Also present *(not nominated to serve on Working party)*: Cllrs D Lamport and R Murray
In attendance: S Brigden *(Town Clerk [TC]);* Mr M Wood and Ms A Soudain *(Chris Blandford Associates – Consultants)*

TIWP2012/09	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** There were none. No message had been received from Cllr A Dean.
TIWP2012/10	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none
TIWP2012/11	**MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting on 16th August 2012 were signed as an accurate record.
TIWP2012/12	**PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** There were none. (No public or press were present)
TIWP2012/13	**BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

i) Presentation – Lewes District Public Realm Framework - The Chairman introduced Mike Wood and Adrienne Soudain, from the Environment, Planning, and Landscape Consultancy; Chris Blandford Associates (CBA). Mr Wood explained that CBA had been retained jointly by Lewes District and East Sussex County Councils, and the South Downs National Park Authority, to prepare a Public Realm Framework for Lewes District. He went on to describe how this would "identify high-level strategic issues, with a particular emphasis on the five main urban settlements with in the District, and translate a series of interventions, or solutions". This should reinforce the special characteristics of individual areas and lead to a policy framework that would inform streetscape projects and improve the integrity of planning and design decisions. Other towns would receive similar presentations shortly, and a collective workshop was planned in March, all designed to elicit and include local ideas, and confirmation (or otherwise) that the emerging content of the Framework was "on the right track". An interesting presentation followed, during and after which Members raised a number of questions, and introduced several ideas. It was noted that many of these had, encouragingly, already been identified by CBA in their preliminary research, such as: additional pedestrian bridges over the river; better use of the river and its banks; architectural "quality" in the pedestrian precinct; recognition of the town's industrial past/avoidance of "gentrification". After some lively discussion, Mr Wood and Ms Soudain were thanked for their informative and clear presentation.

ii) 20mph speed limit for Lewes – East Sussex County Council (ESCC) had recently reported that public objections to the introduction of the town centre scheme had been considered by their Planning Committee and discounted. The scheme could now go ahead, and installation of signage etc was scheduled for early March, with completion anticipated before Easter.

iii)   Pedestrian crossings and traffic-calming - ESCC had confirmed that the design of two crossings for Church Lane Malling, to be paid-for by the Town Council's agreed contribution, was now confirmed; statutory consultations were complete, and installation was planned for the next suitable school holiday period, to

minimize disruption. Some discussion followed on other matters such as the traffic re-flow proposals in the area of White Hill/Mount Pleasant/Sun Street. Cllrs Milner and O'Keeffe had recently attended a site visit with ESCC officers in Southover High Street, following public requests for a formal crossing. This had identified some opportunities, and several constraints, and the highway engineers were continuing research into any practical solutions. This may be brought to a future meeting if appropriate.

iv)   *Lewes Bus Station* – there had not yet been a "round-table" meeting with stakeholders, although this would now be progressed with the added impetus of the Public Realm Framework consultation described above, as this was seen as a gateway to the town for visitors arriving by bus.

v)   *Bus shelters* – Research was progressing into the practical aspects of the suggested locations. It was understood that two sites would not be acceptable due to the width of footway, and precise information related to underground utility service connections was not yet confirmed on the others. The visible pavement adjacent to the County Court was understood to be only partly adopted footway. This would be investigated further.

vi)   *Bicycle racks* – ESCC, who had recently been successful in obtaining funds for sustainable transport initiatives, had considered locations put forward and provided maps of their suggested sites.   They asked whether Members would support replacement of existing "Heritage" designs at certain sites with simpler and more space-efficient modern designs. Members had no objection in-principle, but several asked that ESCC consider the "Penny-farthing" design that was already installed at some off-street locations. This was considered to be more readily-identifiable as to its purpose, and to offer some interesting sculptural aspect to the streetscape when not in use. Members' response would be passed-on to the project officer.

vii)   *Revisions to Lewes District Off-street parking Order* – Members noted that the consultation deadline on this had been extended to 1st March. Several Councillors had made comments, and it was agreed that the Working party would register formal comments as:

- Objection to the reduction of maximum stay at Westgate Street to two hours. This should remain at four hours. (it was suspected that the reduction was an error)

- Charges should not increase. No convincing economic case can be seen for the proposed rise, which will further damage the viability of local businesses.

- Removal of charges on Bank Holidays is welcomed.

TIWP2012/14   As there was no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

Signed: ....   Date: ....