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David Ashlee Town Clerk and Chief Executive



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Your Ref
Our Ref RGS/C6

24 March 2017

Dear Sir or Madam

Dunstable Town Meeting

You are invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting of the Parish of Dunstable which will be held at **Creasey Park Community Football Centre, Creasey Park Drive (off Brewers Hill Road), Dunstable on Monday 3 April 2017 at 7.30 pm.** The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

Any elector of the Parish of Dunstable is entitled to attend this meeting.

Yours faithfully

David Ashlee
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Opening remarks by Town Mayor.
2. To approve the Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 11 April 2016 (see page 1).
3. Presentation by the Town Clerk and Chief Executive on the Market Town Regeneration Fund projects
4. Questions from Electors.

To: Dunstable Town Councillors and
Central Bedfordshire Councillors for Dunstable

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING

**HELD AT CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE, CREASEY PARK DRIVE,
(off BREWERS HILL ROAD), DUNSTABLE**

ON MONDAY 11 APRIL 2016

Present: Councillor Liz Jones (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillor Peter Hollick (Deputy Town Mayor); Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive) and approximately 10 electors of the Parish of Dunstable

1. WELCOME

The Town Mayor welcomed electors to the 2016 Dunstable Town Meeting and explained its purpose.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 30 March 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.

3. WOODSIDE LINK ROAD AND THE A5-M1 LINK - PRESENTATION BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ON PROGRESS TO DATE

Mr Jim Tombe, the Head of Transport Strategy with Central Bedfordshire, gave a presentation providing an update on the progress with the Woodside Link Road and the A5-M1 Link and also outlined the benefits of the subsequent planned de-trunking of the A5.

The construction of the Woodside Link road had started in May 2015. Works were on schedule and the road was due to open in Spring 2017. The Link Road would connect Houghton Regis and industrial estates in Dunstable to a new motorway Junction 11a. Regular updates on progress could be found on the Central Bedfordshire Council's website and Facebook pages.

The A5-M1 Link was being constructed by Highways England and work had commenced in January 2015 and this link road was also due to open in Spring 2017. The scheme was progressing well and once completed would connect the M1 at a new junction at 11a north of Luton, to the A5 at Thorn Turn. The Link would increase accessibility between Milton Keynes and M1 Junction 9, making journey times shorter and more reliable for vehicles travelling a long distance. It would reduce congestion on the A5 and take traffic away from local roads in Dunstable and Houghton Regis.

The completion of the link roads would allow the detrunking of the A5, removing HGVs from the town centre, other than for deliveries. Public consultation would be held on the implementation of traffic orders.

The de-trunking of the A5 would provide the opportunity to look at a change of the town centre streetscape and additional funding could be available. Central Bedfordshire Council would also be addressing the poor quality of the road surface in sections of Chalk Hill with Highways England before accepting responsibility for the A5.

4. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Mr Tombe answered a number of questions following his presentation and gave details of the appropriate department to contact on some issues he was unable to answer.

In answer to other questions raised on town affairs, the following responses were given:

The Town Mayor advised that any issues regarding parking on highways should be reported to Central Bedfordshire Council. However, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive and Councillor Ghent would take individual's details and refer accordingly.

Roger Pepworth spoke of the passing of two councillors since the last Town Meeting, Jim Anklesaria and Julian Murray.

In response to concerns raised in respect of Dunstable Market, the Town Mayor advised that the Town Council was doing everything possible to continue to provide services to traders and was currently recruiting for market porters. Councillor Jones also advised that the Market Manager was doing his best to encourage new stall holders and also encouraged residents to support the Market.

With regards to nuisance caused by off road motor cyclists and pedal cyclists, the Town Mayor advised that she had personally had discussions with the Police to find a solution to the problem and Councillor Moffatt advised that he would raise the nuisance caused by pedal cyclists with the relevant schools.

Councillor Hollick referred to Operation Meteor in which the police had cracked down on the problem of off road motorcycles in the Green Lanes Area.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Tombe and everyone for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.