



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council



71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SP - Tel: 01702 716288
council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Carole Mulroney

Vice Chairman: Cllr Caroline Parker

Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson

You are hereby summoned to an **Extraordinary** meeting of the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council, which will take place on **Thursday 25th April 2013** in Leigh Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea commencing at **7.30pm** when it is hoped to transact the following business.

AGENDA

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS
2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS
3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 10th April 2013
5. TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO ELM ROAD DEVELOPMENT BRIEF – Report 2203/CM (Appendix 1)

Paul Beckerson
Town Clerk
18th April 2013

Any member who is unable to attend the meeting should send their apologies before the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 8th May 2013



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Report 2203/CM

ELM ROAD DEVELOPMENT BRIEF CONSULTATION

Introduction

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's consultation on the Development Brief for the entire Elm Road site is currently on consultation until 13 May.

This Special meeting of Council has been called to enable members to form a view on the proposals in the Brief in time for these to be publicised in Leigh so that individuals can take these into consideration when formulating their own responses to the consultation. It will also consider what action should be taken to encourage people to respond to the consultation.

Background

The site concerned encompasses the Police Station, Town Council offices, a private house and the Community Centre.

The proposals are as a result of an earlier consultation process to which the Town Council responded in 2012.

On 22 May 2012 Planning Committee made the following statement which was considered by Council on 13 June 2012 –

8. ELM ROAD PRE-DESIGN BRIEF CONSULTATION

The Planning Committee of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council welcomes Southend Borough Council's engagement of an Architectural and Town Planning Practice to consult with the residents of Leigh on the possible future of the Elm Road civic site and looks forward to being a key stakeholder in this process.

The Town Council has given a great deal of thought and consideration to this area and at present, the Planning Committee will restrict its comments to the following, which are in line with the Town Council's resolutions regarding the community centre, and to its core strategy.

- we wish to retain the police station building, formerly the town hall of Leigh-on-Sea Urban District Council*
- we wish to retain at least the facade of the community centre building, formerly the conservative and unionist club*
- we wish to retain of a community centre use on a like for like basis, approx 1,700m², on or near to the centre of Leigh and preferably on the Elm Road site*
- this process does not affect the Town Council's current plans and intentions with regard to the community centre.*

At Council on 13 June 2012 the matter was again discussed after a visual presentation and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation contained in the minute of the Planning Committee on 22 May 2012 as the Council's submission to the planning consultation and to request that residents' and elderly groups within the town be included in the consultation process.

Subsequent issues

Since this decision was taken the Borough Council has been considering the outcome of the consultation and has now approved the draft Development Brief for consultation. There have also been reports in the press that the Connexions Building is to be demolished for further car parking.

Also the Borough Council appear to have misinterpreted the Town Council's position in the Library Review documents in that they see our responses as a willingness to accommodate the library facility within the Community Centre. This is not the case – never in the library consultation process has the Town Council indicated this, nor were we asked the question. Whilst in our response to the library consultation we indicated a willingness to work with the Borough Council to ensure the retention of library services within Leigh, the Community Centre was not discussed and any such intrusion into the workings of the Community Centre would have a detrimental effect on community uses in the Centre .

The consultation

Members are asked to carefully consider the documentation contained in the Brief and attend the meeting in readiness for an effective discussion.