

**TOWN CENTRE SUB COMMITTEE
27 JULY 1999**

Present: Councillors Mrs Ballin, Mrs Clifford, Finnie, Flood, Jones, North and Sargeant

Apologies for Absence were received from:
Councillors Bettison and McCormack

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Bettison be elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee for the municipal year.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Ballin be appointed Vice-Chairman.

COUNCILLOR MRS BALLIN IN THE CHAIR

3. Substitute Member

The Sub Committee noted the attendance of the following substitute Members under Standing Order 38:

Councillor Mrs Clifford for Councillor McCormack
Councillor Sargeant for Councillor Bettison

4. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub Committee held on 17 March 1999 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Urgent Item of Business Under Standing Order 7

The Chairman gave notice that she had agreed to the addition of an item of urgent business to the agenda for the meeting. The report concerned funding for the town centre management initiative. An urgent decision was required to enable the acquisition of items required for the ongoing initiatives to promote the town centre.

6. Town Centre Management Strategy – Minute 13(ii): Town Centre Sub-Committee held on 17 March 1999 (Urgent Item)

The Sub-Committee considered a report arising on minute 13(ii) of the meeting on 17 March 1999, seeking authority to release a further £20,000 from monies held under Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to contribute to ongoing initiatives to promote the town centre.

RESOLVED that a further £20,000 be released from the available funding to underpin the Town Centre Management Strategy.

7. Town Centre Management Strategy – Targeted Improvements (Item 1)

The Sub Committee considered a progress report on steps which had been taken since the launch of the Town Centre Management Strategy. The Sub-Committee was reminded that one of the strands of the Management Strategy was to launch an Action Programme which had three main themes;

- Standards of street care and presentation;
- Targeted improvements to the fabric of the Town Centre;
- Marketing and Communications.

The report sought authority to proceed with a number of schemes arising from the initiative.

There was some concern expressed about the proposals to install a permanent public address system and electronic chimes for the water clock. It was considered that neither would enhance the ambience of Charles Square. In addition, the type of fencing to protect the planted area was questioned.

With regard to the permanent public address system and water chimes, the Sub-Committee agreed that it did not wish to support either, although it was agreed that the officers should consider purchasing a portable public address system for use at future events, given the relatively low cost of such equipment when compared to the cost of hiring it when necessary.

With regard to the fencing, the officers explained that this was intended to match the existing metalwork in the square and that an alternative suggestion of “prickly” planting was not considered appropriate in a shopping centre location.

RESOLVED that the proposed schemes to resurface Market Place, renew selected planters in the Broadway, protect the planting in Charles Square and provide new planters in High Street West, in the sum of £85,000, be approved.

8. Items for Information

The Sub Committee noted the following items submitted for information only:

Town Centre Development Manager's Report (Item 2)

Town Centre Redevelopment – Public Inquiry (Item 3)

High Street Car Park – Refurbishment (Item 4)

Arising on item 3, it was agreed that the Borough Solicitor should seek clarification on the final date for submission of representations and press the inspector for the timetable for publication of his reports.

9. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

That pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of Items 5 and 6 which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that Act.

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| (7) | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Authority) | (Item 6) |
| (8) | Information relating to the amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services. | (Item 5) |
| (9) | Information relating to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services. | (Item 6) |

10. **Bracknell Town Centre – Closed Circuit Television System (Item 5)**

The Sub Committee considered a further report on the possibility of installing a Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) to monitor the pedestrianised areas of Bracknell town centre, having regard to Mason Communications Limited's feasibility study into the viability and cost of introducing such a system.

The study had been completed and a proposal for the installation of an eleven camera scheme covering the core of the town centre, from the railway station to Broadway, had been made, to improve the actual and perceived security for visitors and users. It was intended that the system should be monitored 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

The Sub-Committee discussed the proposals, noting that the eleven cameras would cover the main pedestrianised area of the town centre and that the area had been drawn up in consultation with the police. It was noted that other cameras could be installed subsequently to extend the area of coverage and that, with this in mind, the intended arrangement with the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead's control centre made provision for up to twenty five cameras to be installed and linked to it.

Whilst there were some doubts expressed about the need for the system given the low incidence of reported crime in the town centre, it was accepted that there was a high perceived level of offending to take into account as well as problems with vandalism and drug abuse. It was therefore agreed to support the proposal.

It was noted that the Government had recently announced a new initiative on crime reduction and further funding for CCTV systems. Whilst priority for bids for funding, which had to be submitted by 30 July 1999, was to tackle car crime, it was felt that a bid should be submitted.

A motion in relation to this item was moved and seconded and in accordance with Standing Order 45, a recorded vote was requested. On being put to the meeting, the voting on the motion was as follows:

For (6) Councillors Mrs Ballin, Mrs Clifford, Flood, Jones, North and Sargeant.

There were no votes against or abstentions.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the eleven camera Closed Circuit Television system identified by Mason Communications Limited for Bracknell Town Centre be approved;
- (ii) Mason Communications Limited be appointed to prepare a detailed specification covering all aspects of the scheme and that tenders be invited from suitable suppliers of the various equipment and services;
- (iii) in accordance with Contract regulation 1.3.4, authority be given to the Director of Planning and Transportation to negotiate contracts for communication links and remote monitoring with the single suppliers identified;
- (iv) the Sub-Committee supports the submission of a bid for matched funding of the capital costs in the sum of £150,000 under the Government's Crime Reduction Programme;
- (v) The balance of the capital cost of the installation, including associated fees, be included in the Council's Capital Programme;
- (vi) that Strategy and Policy Committee be asked to include the annual revenue costs within the forward commitment budget; and,
- (vii) the results of the tenders so sought and other negotiations be brought back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

11. **Items for Information which Contain Exempt Information**

The Sub Committee noted the following item submitted for information only, on which officers answered a number of questions:

- Town Centre Redevelopment – Progress Report (Item 6)

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and concluded at 6.45pm

CHAIRMAN