

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 19th June 2013 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Mayor)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, A. R. James, Mrs P. M. Jones, J. May, Mrs M. McCarroll, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss R. Siddall, W. N. Tasker and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr R. A. Hughes - Finance Officer
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

18. OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. Stan Walker, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

19. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones (on holiday), Ms J. Hughes (work commitment), Miss S. L. Roberts (work commitment), D. Simmons (mayoral engagement), P. J. Williams (work commitment) and the Town Clerk (on holiday).

20. MINUTES

The Minutes of the following Meetings of Council and Committees were submitted for approval as a correct record:

Annual Meeting - 15th May 2013 - Min.Nos. 1-17
of Council

Proposed by Councillor W. N. Tasker and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 5th June 2013 - Min.Nos. 1-5
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor B. Blakeley and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 5th June 2013 - Min.Nos. 1-19
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

21. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he and the Deputy Mayor had attended since the last meeting of Council (circulated with Agenda) for Members information, and in particular to the Normandy Veterans D-Day Lunch (omitted from the report), the SunCentre 5K Race, the Record of Achievement presentations at Rhyl High School and the Millennium Volunteer Awards Presentation Evening and added that Councillor Simmons was attending the Vale of Clwyd Scouts AGM at Rhyl Golf Club that evening as Deputy Mayor.

22. PRESENTATION TO COUNCILLOR W. N. TASKER

The Mayor presented Councillor Tasker with a record of his year in office as a personal memento.

23. PRESENTATION: G2G COMMUNITIES CIC

Further to Minute No.187 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st May 2013, the Mayor introduced Mr and Mrs Lockitt and invited them to address the Council on the work of G2G Communities and the newly established North Wales Innovation Centre in the newly refurbished Bee and Station Hotel in Rhyl.

Director, Mrs Lockitt, explained that their ethos was to make people more employable by making learning more enjoyable via 'off the shelf' and 'bespoke' training programmes with a particular focus on ICT and engineering.

Mrs Lockitt added that all profit was reinvested in the various projects and services on offer ranging from help with CV writing, basic internet skills and more advanced web-hosting, social media networking, the ECDL, 'Pop up People' programme to their latest initiative LEGO Education.

'Pop up People' being a flexible, learner centred programme for people wanting to start their own business but needing to top-up their qualifications. Mrs Lockitt was delighted that they had 10 people on their books already which was a brilliant start towards their aim of 50.

LEGO Education being the more 'engineering' based skills programme aimed at redressing the shortfall of 40,000 engineers every year in the UK, to ensure that businesses moving to North Wales have people with the necessary skills and motivation to move into employment. Mrs Lockitt added that they were particularly keen to attract women into this field as they were very much in the minority.

Mrs Lockitt said that these projects were quite unique in that these learning opportunities were family and community focused and were being taken into schools to support the curriculum.

In response to a questions raised by a Member, Mrs Lockitt said that although all of the projects were offered free of charge, in order to become sustainable in the long-term they were in the process of working out a reasonable charging policy.

Members praised the work of G2G Communities CIC and wished them continued success.

24. PRESENTATION: RHYL GOING FORWARD

The Mayor introduced Mr Tom Booty (Programme Manager) to the meeting and invited him to address the Council on the latest proposed developments on Rhyl Promenade.

Mr Booty showed a computer generated 'fly through' of how Rhyl could look once all of the proposed regeneration projects had been completed and in response to Members' questions advised that:

- Denbighshire County Council would need millions of pounds to compulsory purchase the Ocean Plaza site now, which it doesn't have and added that although the renewal of the application for the site had been granted a two year extension, a condition had been applied to address the ugliness of the area within a month.
- There was a shift of focus from declining tourism to the town and its residents with the thinking being that if Rhyl is an attractive place to live and work, then tourism will follow naturally.
- With regard to the new aquatics centre, he was hoping to convince Denbighshire County Council to go for Option 2 (a 25m pool with extra leisure facilities) which he felt was the most economical to build and would ultimately bring in a higher level of income than the other Options 1 and 3.

Mr Booty gave a second presentation on 'Vibrant and Viable Places: A New Regeneration Framework', reporting that:

- As a result of new Welsh Government guidelines future funding would be directed towards town centres, coastal communities and Communities First Clusters, as Rhyl ticked all of those boxes it was the obvious choice to apply for.
- Up to £30million per annum was available over a three year period for capital projects starting in 2014/15, with no more than £5million per year in any one settlement and with 25% to be secured from other sources than Welsh Government.
- A very brief initial application needed to be submitted by 12th July and that applications would be shortlisted by 4th November and an announcement made as to which applications had been successful on 21st January 2014.
- A secondary retail area (Queen Street, Water Street and Promenade frontage) was looking like the strongest case with a view to introducing employment and residential use to the vacant properties, to increase the customer base of the primary retail area and linking up with the planned investment in West Rhyl and the new Leisure Zone.

In response to Members' questions Mr Booty said that:

- As this funding could be applied for without any investment from Denbighshire County Council unfortunately this did not free up any of the County Council's pots for other towns.
- They could encourage other property owners on the High Street to follow what Poundland had done and paint their upstairs spaces, but that the spaces did not lend themselves to becoming living accommodation.

Members thanked Mr Booty for two excellent presentations, which they very much hoped to see come to fruition and thanked him for all of his hard work over the years.

25. INFORMATION ITEMS

With prior agreement from the Mayor, Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard reported that she had successfully completed her sponsored walk around the Great Orme in Llandudno in aid of Diabetes UK, and thanked Councillors for their support and sponsorship.

26. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions by Members of the public present.

27. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

***RESOLVED** that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, on the grounds of confidentiality.*

28. RHYL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Further to Minute No.14 of the meeting held on 5th June 2013, the Finance Officer submitted his confidential report for Members' consideration.

During debate different opinions on the level of funding to be made to the programme were aired and questions were put to the Town Council's Champions, Councillor B. Blakeley and Councillor A. R. James. After proposals were voted on, the Champions offered their resignations from their positions as they felt that they did not have the Council's full confidence.

Members stated that they should not take their questions and views as personal attacks and asked them to reconsider resigning as Champions by the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 3rd July 2013.

***RESOLVED** that £20,000 of the allocated budget of £25,000 be approved for the 2013/14 programme, and the accrued £5,000 surplus be 'ring fenced' within the programme for provision for Rhyl's most deprived children.*

29. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further items of business the Mayor declared the Meeting of Council closed.

Mayor:

Date: