

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH JUNE 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllr A Kendall (Chairman), Cllr P Barton, Cllr R Claydon, Cllr N Clement, Cllr T Luker, Cllr P Smith, Mrs T McLusky (Beaumont-le-Roger Society), Mr G Phillips (Arts Association), Mrs J Tebb (Chamber of Trade & Wotton in Bloom) In Attendance: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom

808. Election of Chairman

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Barton, to elect Cllr Kendall as Chairman of this Committee. Agreed all in favour. Cllr Kendall took the Chair.

809. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Canon Axford, Mr M Clarke, Mrs J Walshe, Reverend Wharin and Cllr A Wilkinson

810. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

811. Minutes of the Town Regeneration Partnership Meeting Held on 8th February 2016

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Claydon that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2016 be approved as a correct record. Agreed all in favour.

812. Community Plan

a) It was noted that the Community Plan has now been published and is in circulation. It had been generally well-received. Members thanked Cllr Claydon for his hard work on the project and commented that it was a well-produced document.

b) Cllr Claydon had produced a Community Action Plan arising from the findings of the Community Plan. It was agreed that the Town Regeneration Partnership committee was the appropriate group to monitor and progress the Action Plan and it was requested that this should be a regular item on future Town Regeneration agendas. It was stressed that the document is a Community Action Plan and requires community involvement to achieve its aims. It is also a living document with scope to evolve and focuses on what the Town Council and Community can achieve; it does not include items which are the responsibility of other agencies and so outside of local remit. Some of the Actions identified could be achieved quickly, others were longer term, with the aim that all of the actions should be completed before the next community plan is due to be produced. Members were asked to study the document and forward any comments to the Town Council so that these could be incorporated into the final Action Plan, which would be put forward to Council for approval. Proposed by Mr Phillips, seconded by Cllr Smith, to support the Action Plan subject to any member comments being incorporated therein.

813. Wotton Helpers/Volunteers

Recently, groups of volunteers have assisted with various tasks around the town, such as tidying St Mary's churchyard, painting the blue finger signposts, painting Old Town Toilets, painting the old 'polo' signpost at the junction of New Road/Wotton Road, work to the flower beds in the Chipping. It was suggested that a point of contact is needed to advertise what has been done, what still needs to be done and to co-ordinate volunteers to do the tasks. It was suggested that a Facebook page, with a name that gives an identity to the group of volunteers, should be established and that this should be separate from the Council. This idea was supported all in favour. Mrs Tebb would progress the idea.

814. Farmers Market

The organiser had reported concerns about the viability of the market following the loss of one of the regular, popular stalls. He also reported that, other than a small loyal core, support from people in the town was low, although the market regularly attracts tourists staying at the Tortworth Four Pillars Hotel and from visitors to Chipping House. He is willing to assist with expansion to a more general market but would need assistance as he has no experience of this. It was noted that it was difficult to get new stallholders as they are usually committed to other markets, particularly the larger and more profitable weekly markets, such as in Stroud and Clifton. It was suggested that the Estates department at Stroud District Council may have information to assist. It was further suggested that an advertisement in an appropriate trade magazine would be a starting point to attract interest of general stallholders. Cllr Smith would investigate process and costs, which could then be considered by Town Council.

815. Walking Festival

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held this Thursday, 16th June. There had been considerable progress with the formation of a committee to take this forward. Chris Sweet and her husband had stepped forward to become Secretary and Chairman respectively, and it was likely that the position of Treasurer would be filled at the next meeting. They had a number of volunteers to lead walks and it was intended that the Festival would take place in Spring 2017 and would last for three days. The initial festival would likely include 9 walks, as it had been suggested by the organisers of Dursley Walking Festival that it was a good idea to start small and then build from the experience gained. It was noted that a Heritage Walk organised as part of the Arts Festival this year had been very well attended. The Walking Festival would coincide with the Arts Festival, the latter being scheduled for 28th April to 7th May 2017 and this was considered to be mutually beneficial. However, it was noted that the first weekend of the Arts Festival also coincided with the visit to France of the Beaumont-le-Roger Society. Members would liaise regarding dates.

816. Signage to Wotton for Visitors to Newark Park

The Town Council had investigated the idea of putting up a brown tourist sign on the road from Newark Park to encourage visitors to come to Wotton. The application cost £300 and, if approved, would have cost potentially a further £2000. It was therefore decided not to pursue this and to instead support advertising within Newark Park. Permission had been given to put a sign/poster in reception at Newark and the President of the Chamber of Trade had been asked to progress this.

817. Clubs & Groups Fair

The Town Council Administrator had provided a report of feedback from the Clubs and Groups Fair event. It was noted that the Town Hall had been very busy, although it was a little cramped upstairs; and the stalls in the Chipping Clubroom had few visitors despite large posters informing of the extra stalls there. It had been suggested that the Civic Centre might be a better venue for future fairs and this was being considered. This was the first event of its kind in the town and future events will hopefully benefit from what has been learned. However, the event was considered to be a great success.

818. Rope Walk Toilets Area

Plans for refurbishment of the area in front of the Rope Walk toilets were circulated. The Town Clerk had designed the refurbishment and had applied for, and been awarded, grants for all of the work except the mural. Most of the items had been purchased and work would commence

shortly. It was hoped that the CCTV coverage of the area would deter vandalism. Members were very supportive of the idea to improve the appearance of this area between the main car park and the shopping area and asked that the Town Clerk be thanked for her hard work. It was suggested that a competition could be held for the mural design.

819. Reports from Partners

- a)** Wotton's Secret Gardens Trail – The event had raised £4238, which would be divided equally between Wotton in Bloom and Wotton Community Sports Foundation. It was held on a beautiful day and had been very well-received. It was hoped that this would become an annual event.
- b)** Wotton in Bloom – the baskets were now up. Flower troughs had been fixed to the railings on the raised pavement area in Old Town and looked very good. It was hoped to have more of them next year.
- c)** Chamber of Trade – Nothing specific to report.
- d)** Signpost – Volunteers had recently re-painted the old signpost on the junction of New Road and Wotton Road. Renishaw had given a grant for the paint. The Town Clerk was thanked for her assistance with progressing this.
- e)** Arts Association – the Arts Festival had been a success. It had included an ambitious concert employing a choir from Bristol. Although this had been very successful, it had operated at a loss due to the high costs involved and so would probably not be repeated. Ideas were already progressing for next year's festival.
- f)** Newark Park – it was noted that a Classic Car Event would be held at Newark Park on 17th July 2016.
- g)** Beaumont-le-Roger Society – They had enjoyed a very successful twinning, hosting 35 adults and 7 children. Feedback received had been very good.
- h)** CALGS – The Society entered its second year, having been evicted on Easter Saturday, with determination undimmed. The half-acre plot was sold by tender last week. Any planning application to develop the site would be vigorously contested. A meeting with the new owner will be sought as soon as possible to try to reinstate the allotments and 'village green'.
- i)** Under the Edge Arts (UTEA) - A very busy first half year with highly successful Ceilidh, 'Spring into Summer' arts marathon, and Flower Power show and several well attended shows. Community outreach is progressing, developing ties with KLB and the Youth Centre. Wotton Dramatic Society and UTEA are discussing collaborative ideas. The Blues Festival committee is very busy with the September 24/25 Festival, with additional venues and performances being added plus workshops. Wotton's Got Talent has been renamed The Edge Factor, with the final at Blue Coat School on November 26. Entries are free and they are keen to see a wide age range taking part. The Christmas show will be on December 9, with a seasonal performance from Festivus the following night. Their membership scheme is being redesigned and details should be out this summer.
- j)** Town Hall Teas – All going well and groups are making healthy amounts of money and good promotion for their causes. There is a reserve list for this year. Two spaces are available for 2017.

There have been quite a few groups of walkers and cyclists this summer as well as local supporters and visitors from outside Wotton. The teas are certainly much appreciated by these visitors.

k) The Heritage Centre - Numbers have risen considerably since the front part of the centre has become a Visitor Information Centre. Contacts have been made with local groups and organisations in the town in order to help promote their events by putting up posters in the centre, giving out flyers, including it on their Facebook page, selling tickets etc. They have so far sold tickets for St Marys Church Woollen lecture , given out woolly trail leaflets and sold tickets for the Secret Garden event. The change inside has had quite an impact, too, with the gift shop now facing the Chipping and small displays in one front window to advertise town events. Wotton town history boards are due to go up in the front area as well. The current display in the centre is 'Wotton Churches And Churchmen'. The next display will be ' Maps'. The expanded activity in conservation of artefacts is ongoing thanks to grants that allow the purchase of museum standard storage facilities. Another grant from the Co-op helped to replace the last of the old cabinets in the main exhibition area. The cabinets are also museum standard and correctly lit to protect artefacts. They would like to thank Cllr Paul Smith for taking part in a photo shoot last week and they hope to have an article in the Gazette soon! They are pleased to welcome Cllr June Cordwell to their committee and would like to thank her for her help at the Town Hall tea on the 5th June.

l) Mr and Mrs Walshe were happy on Sunday to decorate the Church drive with their telescopic flag poles for the Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations.

m) Baptist Church - the building work on the link between the church hall and main church building will be taking place from September – December this year. The official opening will be part of the celebration of 300 years of 'not conforming' on the weekend of 1-2 April 2017.

820. Any Other Brief Reports – none reported.

821. Dates for Future Meetings

Dates for future meetings were arranged as follows: 12th September 2016; 7th November 2016; 6th February 2017; 8th May 2017. It was agreed that future meetings should start at 7pm rather than 7.30pm providing this was acceptable to members who had been unable to attend the meeting this evening. The Clerk would email to check this.

This completed the business of the Town Regeneration Partnership Committee

Signed:

Date:

Chairman of the Town Regeneration Partnership