

**NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.00PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE**



**PRESENT:** Cllr A Wilkinson (Chairman), Cllr P Barton, Cllr T Luker, Cllr R Claydon, Cllr J Turner, Cllr N Pinnegar, Mrs J Tebb (Secret Gardens Trail), Mrs J Walshe (Heritage Centre), Mr M Clarke (UTEA), Mr G Phillips (Wotton Arts Festival); In Attendance: Administrator Diana Hyam

**952. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr P Smith, Mrs C Sweet, Mrs T McLusky, Ms S Hunt.

**953. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations – None**

**954. Public Forum – No public present**

**955. Minutes of the Town Regeneration Partnership Meeting Held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Proposed by Cllr Luker, seconded by Cllr Barton that the Minutes of the Town Regeneration Partnership meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be approved as a correct record. Agreed all in favour

**956.** It was noted that the Town Regeneration Partnership is now operating as a Working Group.

**957. Remit of Working Group** - In addition to the present remit for the Town Regeneration Partnership it was highlighted that it was important for the Working Group to concentrate on the following;

- To make recommendations to the Town Council for spending.
- Assist and support the regeneration of the town and its amenities both recreational and commercial.
- To keep a priority list of projects that will be up-dated regularly on progress at meetings.
- To review the Community Plan more regularly to ensure that issues highlighted are addressed and to note if any are outstanding. It was noted that the Community Plan was reviewed in 2016 and will probably need reviewing next year.

**958. Project Strategy** - It was noted that the Questionnaire compiled by the Town Council had been sent out to all Wotton households asking for their input into spending priorities. It was confirmed that it was intended that each household would have a questionnaire and not each individual resident, as it would affect the Council Tax precept. It was noted that many had received remarks that residents were unhappy with this arrangement.

The Town Council will process the results of the questionnaire which will help formulate spending priorities. It was noted that grants could be applied for to support some of these projects.

**959. Priority Action List** - An action list has been drawn up to ensure that projects are kept up-to-date and progress can be monitored. Smaller working parties will be encourage to work on these projects and report back to the Town Regeneration Partnership Working Group meetings. New projects can be added at any time and each will be given a number for easy reference.

1. **Cotswold Edge Severn Vale Tourism Network** - Mrs Walshe reported on a recent meeting held at Cattle Country.

a. Main issue was the recent decision by SDC to close the only Funded TIC in Stroud. There was an agreement to donate £2,000 to each existing volunteer lead VIC's (a one off payment).

b. The Tourism and Visitor Economy Group set up by Gloucestershire First Local Economic Partnership is intend to bring all interested parties together to agree an action plan.

c. Canvassing has started on an eating and drinking map to be funded by selling advertising space to hospitality businesses. The free map will be available through TIC's and businesses.

d. Local Hub groups will be set up to work on smaller projects and may offer a way to get joined up packages for distribution around Wotton, Stroud, Berkeley, Slimbridge, Frampton, Cam and Dursley.

e. There will be a February Newsletter featuring good work happening across the area.

f. Cattle Country has successfully had a share of the RDPE Growth Programme and Leader Programme funding to expand.

g. Following presentations the attendees split into networking groups to discuss ideas raised. The Swan Hotel and Woodchester Vineyard will be putting a package of organised tours together.

h. The date for the next meeting is to be arranged and each meeting is held in a different town each time. The tourist information initiative will become available in April. There is no information at present but the Town Council will apply for the one off payment.

*A working party will be formed to formulate what is required. Action Cllr Wilkinson and Mrs Walshe.*

**2. Stroud Market Towns Project Funding** - This has increased due to the efforts made by SDC Cllr Tucker in November 2018 by managing to secure an increase of £11,000 so that the total will be around £40,000. Initially the bid included improvements to Old Town toilets and proposed carpark. An official bid is proposed to be submitted by 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Proposals may be reviewed following the public consultation through the questionnaire recently distributed.

**3. Christmas Decorations and Event 2019** - It was noted that the Clerk and Mrs Walshe met with the organisers of the Christmas Event and it was suggested that the Town Council could assist with administration and finance, as this would enable the Council to offer insurance cover for the event. Unfortunately, this aspect of the event was well supported and help was not needed. A meeting is planned for 6<sup>th</sup> February for the event Mrs Walshe is to attend. It was suggested that there be a separate working group for the organising of Christmas decorations for the main streets.

**4. Postcards** - Mrs Walshe reported that a new postcard has been produced giving details of key events in the town. 5,000 have been printed at a cost of £180. These are intended to be distributed via Information Centres and businesses outside of Wotton-under-Edge to encourage more tourism to the area. However, some will be available in the Heritage Centre and the One Stop Shop. It was pointed out that distributing the postcard was difficult without incurring costs via a leaflet distributor. It was noted that Cotswold Edge Severn Vale Tourism Network could become a useful vehicle for distributing leaflets etc in future.

*This will be actioned by the working party in section 959 1.h.*

**5. Town Noticeboards** - Little progress has been made as regards the town map boards. The working party is waiting for the work to be completed on the new leaflet so the new map can be used on the artwork and then quotes can be obtained. It was noted that a survey of the boards will be carried out and extra details will be added such as locations of the defibrillators in the town. *To be actioned by the working party.*

**6. Leaflets** - Jeff Walshe has been putting together a new leaflet for the town. When he researched other Cotswold towns it was noted that they were all using a similar style of map. It is simpler than the current one and this would help visitors identify places of interest and street names more easily. The company (Cotswolds.com) that produced these maps would be able to complete one for Wotton free of charge. This would cut down on costs for both the leaflets and the map boards. It was decided that the leaflet would not contain any dates of events as this would reduce its shelf life and in future it could contain an up-date postcard detailed in item 4 of the action list. *Mr Walshe will continue to develop the leaflet.*

**7. Wotton in Bloom** - Sue Hunt submitted a report as she was unable to attend. 2019 will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wotton in Bloom. The first meeting will be held this week. The quotes for the baskets will be the same as the last 2 years - £42 each. The group will continue to maintain the tubs at the War Memorial and the 2 plant boxes at the entrances to the town. Quotes will be obtained for the flower beds at the Youth Centre to replant with more sustainable shrubs and plants but the memorial tree will be preserved. An application will be made for a Lottery Grant to cover work that cannot be completed by the volunteers. This year it is hoped that the local schools will take part in Wotton in Bloom.

**8. Britain in Bloom** - An advert for someone to complete the application for Britain in Bloom has been circulated. Unfortunately, no one has come forward to fill this roll which includes filling in forms and preparing a presentation. Following much discussion it was decided that Mr Clarke would approach

Renishaw for assistance with this project as they may have apprentices that could be involved, along with a request for a grant.

**9. Save the High Street** - No report Cllr Wilkinson and Mr Tucker will be looking at funding for Town centres and High Streets.

**10. Cotswolds Gateway Project**- It was noted that this was being dealt with by the Footpaths Working Group and they have a meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> February. Some actions may come out of this meeting including a survey as it is intended that routes will be marked and noticeboards will be erected.

*Mrs Hyam to check on progress.*

**11. Old Town Toilets** - This will be reviewed following the results of the questionnaire. The best outcome would be to replace them with a unisex unit. Installing a paid use toilet has been investigated but it was found with the usage to be unviable. Members of the working group would be interested in having sight of the recent specification used to gather quotes. Cllr Claydon will supply the specification.

#### **960. Additional Items for the Priority Action List**

**a. Leaflet Distribution** as detailed in item 959 1.h

**b. My Wotton** To approach owner of the dominion with a view to starting up an information site similar to My Thornbury. *Action Cllr Wilkinson*

**c. Wotton Arts Hub** a group are looking into setting up an Arts Hub headed by Catherine Alexander and will need support from the Regeneration Partnership.

**d. Dementia Friendly Wotton and Dementia Connections** will need support in working towards becoming a "Dementia Friendly Town" as detailed in the current community plan. *Action Mrs Sweet*

**e. Wotton Walking Festival** To support the walking festival partners to encourage tourism to the town. *Action Mrs Sweet*

**f. Street Cleaning** The lions and Bloomers 2 undertook much of the street cleaning prior to the Britain in Bloom visit. However, there is a need to do more in the town a working party will be set up to complete a survey. *Actioned by working party Mrs Tebb, Cllr Barton, Cllr Luker and Cllr Wilkinson.*

#### **961. Reports from Partners**

**a. Beaumont Le Roger** – A report was circulated to members prior to the meeting as follows: The Society were looking into a request for a 14 year old girl to take part in an exchange in August. Either, to exchange with a local girl of the same age or for a local family to host for 3 weeks with no exchange.

**b. Dementia Connection/Dementia Friendly Wotton** – Report received and circulated to members prior to the meeting the report as follows:

- During Dementia Awareness week (May2018) an open event for the public to attend to share information and meet professionals was held at the Star.
- Dementia Friendly Wotton Group met twice in 2018 to consider actions to take forward.
- Jan 2019 Dementia Awareness training event hosted by UTEA and attended by volunteers from Wotton and the surrounding area. Training was given by Rachael Peak from Gloucestershire Dementia Training Group.
- Investigations are taking place to see if there is any interest in training for retailers and businesses to take part in a Dementia Friends Awareness training session.
- A survey is planned to be distributed by Wotton Times
- "Pop up shop" event in late March at the Ark to share information, raise awareness and consult the public.
- Guidance is available to create a dementia friendly environment with signage, colour schemes etc – contact Mrs Sweet for more information.

#### **c. UTEA**

- The Arts Trail will be running from 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> May

- Almost a full complement of Trustees with several people stepping forward and working with Create Gloucestershire to attract a younger Trustee. Sarah McCabe (former owner of Fusion Gallery) has joined and also sits on the Wotton Arts Association Committee. This will support moves to bring the two organisations closer together.
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> March Spring into Summer Arts Marathon.
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> and Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May Under the Edge Arts Trail which has been running for the last 8 years. Looking for a small contribution from the Town Council and will also apply to other sponsors.
- Supporting Christmas Under the Edge plans for 2019 with the popular tree lights and laser combination.
- Plans to introduce WiFi and possibly a webcam for visitors are being advanced.
- A meeting for Wotton Arts Hub planned to be held March/April.
- UTEA will be running a free Art Making Walk again as part of Wotton Walking Festival and running events with the Wotton Blues Festival.
- UTEA are likely to lose £2,000 in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March. This term will be the busiest ever programme carrying through to the summer.
- Mr Clarke will be stepping down as Chairman from the end of July.

**d. Secret Gardens** – Have been planned for 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May letters have been sent and arrangements are underway.

**e. Arts Festival** – A list of events are planned for Wotton Arts Festival as follows:

- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April Pre Festival Concert Wotton Silver Band present The Cory Band at Renishaw New Mills.
- Wotton Silver Band formally Abbey Band from Kingswood is celebrating 125 years of making music.
- Sat 20<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am St George's Day Celebrations Market Street.
- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> April 8.00pm Art Exhibition and Festival Opening at the Civic Centre.
- Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Passacaglia Trio at St Mary's Church.
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Laurie Lee Film "The Lost Recordings" UTEA.
- Tue 30<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm "Two Severn Bores" Severn Stories and songs by Bill Church and Dan Everett at the Star.
- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May "7.30pm Turning Tables" Ali Vowles interviews Martin Clarke and Michael Claydon at the Blue Coat School.
- Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> May 6.30pm Schools Music St Mary's Church.
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> May 7.30pm Tyntesfield Lecture by Terry Stevens at the Civic Centre.
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm Bristol Ensemble Music by Mozart Farther and Son St Mary's Church.
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> May Wotton 11.00am Silver Band on Wotton Hill and 6.00pm Festival Service St Mary's Church
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> & Mon 6<sup>th</sup> UTEA Arts Trail.
- May 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Annabel's Party in the Green Room.

**f. Town Hall Teas** - Will start on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March and finish 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov, all slots are taken and there is a waiting list.

**g. Heritage Centre** – The Winter exhibition on the First World War was well received by visitors to the Centre. Members of the Society took part in an event to inform school children about the war and its effects on soldiers and life at home. The Centre will be hosting visits by pupils of the Blue Coat School in future. The current exhibition is on Pubs of Wotton and how they have changed. Following fund raising by volunteers and various grants applied for by the Grants Officer, much of the collection has been maintained with most of the books and booklets being stored in conservation boxes (that should last 500 years). The Centre ran Town Hall Teas on Boxing Day with a share of the proceeds going to Synwell Playing Field Trustees. It was reported that visitor numbers saw an increase during 2018 unlike other areas in the Cotswolds who saw a decrease. The Society are running regular coffee mornings at the Swan for volunteers.

**962. Brief Reports** – The Walking Festival will take place 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May with a programme of 17 walks. Cllr Barton reported that The Gazette newspaper will be running articles on the variety of interesting and specialist shops in the town.

Community Fund Raising Course- it was suggested that a member of the working group should attend more information is needed and clarification on cost implications. It was noted that there might not be enough time to enrol on this course due to the limited time scale but should be considered if a course becomes available in the future.

**963.** Date of next meeting is to be confirmed in June.

Signed ..... Chairman of Town Regeneration Partnership

Date.....