

Newport Town Team

Notes of the Business Meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2015

Present: Nigel West (Chairman & Fiveways Insurance), Karen Woodcock (Vice Chairman & All About Newport), Margaret Woodcock (Director & Newport League of Friends), Matthew White (Waitrose), Fiona Tansley (Appleby & Shaw), Charmaine Briscoe (Bellmans Yard Garage), Mike Atherton (Town Team Manager),

1. Apologies: Maria Sindhu (NTT Director & Daisy Chain), Sue Tranter (Director & Newport Cookshop), David Parker (NTT Treasurer), Hannah Tranter (Newport Cookshop), Ellen Windsor-Crewe (Duignan & Phelps), Pam Edwards (Waitrose), Cllr Ian Perry (Ian Perry Stamps & NTC Rep), Mark Freeman (Henshalls) & Katie Foster (Advisor).

2. Feedback & Review of Town Centre Events

(a) St. George's Day Parade

Despite extensive publicity including coverage in the newsletter and 'All About Newport' magazine some traders claimed they weren't aware of the event

Overall event went well and to plan, attendance by the community was good but could have been better, possibly affected by the weather forecast for heavy showers around lunchtime.

Event recognised as good for the town – attracts visitors and good for promoting Newport – little evidence of direct retail for retailers but likely to have a longer-term benefit with visitors returning.

Thanks extended to all those who took part in the window dressing competition, and congratulations to Past & Present Jewellery in the indoor market hall who won the competition.

Some issues around traffic and access – possibly due to inadequate number of street Marshalls.

(b) Charter Fair

Little or no direct communications with businesses meant many were unaware of the event – some street posters and similar in shop windows – but recognising previous communication issues this was considered to be wholly inadequate.

Direct benefits of the event were mostly enjoyed by the food and drink retailers. No direct benefits to non-food retailers but like St. George's Day event possible longer-term benefits are acknowledged.

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It was suggested that it might be appropriate to link this event with the Olde Thyme Market events.

There was a brief discussion on procedures for the road closures, non-application of standard charges, and whether the event should qualify as a community initiated charitable event when the fairground operators are clearly profit making entities.

3. £1m T&WC 'Pride in Your High Street' Fund

The TTM introduced this item with a summary of the T&WC fund providing information about purpose, criteria and process. It was noted that there are two parts to the fund including a bids initiative and a community events / culture related initiative.

There was extensive discussion on potential options for bids including:-

- ❖ an proposed extension at Newport Cottage Care Centre to provide an arts and crafts room (circa £90k);
- ❖ scope to introduce a portable ice rink into the Christmas lights switch-on weekend events that might also include a fun fair;
- ❖ a food and drink fair possibly linked to corresponding events in other towns across the borough;
- ❖ match-funding bid to support an HLF bid for the Market Hall;
- ❖ an external cladding initiative to improve the appearance of Central Square nightclub

Consideration was given to how schemes might link, who else might submit bids, impact on the town centre, and effect if car parks were used as venues.

It was agreed that to get the best out of these opportunities the process needs to be strategic coordinated and given limited timeframe that this might best be carried out by Newport Regeneration Partnership.

Action: TTM to draft a report for Newport Regeneration Partnership meeting on 12th May seeking their agreement to coordinate all Newport bids (insofar as is possible).

4. Financial Report

In the absence of the Treasurer the TTM gave a brief overview of accounts, the timeframe for receipt of the Aldi contribution, and an update on membership renewals.

5. Any Other Business of an Urgent Nature

KW asked about progress of the Welcome Packs – agreed that we need uniformity of style & standard. Town Team to design and produce an outer folder, traders to contribute contents, and All about Newport to provide the booklet

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MW informed the meeting about the Waitrose “Give & Gain” day taking place between 7.00 and 9.00 pm on Thursday 14th May. All contributors welcome – contact Matt or Pam Edwards.

6. Future Meeting Dates

2nd June 2015 - The Phez

7th July 2015 - ditto

August – No Meeting

1st September 2015 - The Phez

6th October 2015 - ditto

3rd November 2015 - ditto

1st December 2015 - ditto