



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

**Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday 23rd November 2011 at 6pm
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

Minutes

Present: Emma Lee, Sue White, John Pragnell, Hattie Winter, Sam Parr, Ian Stock, Jane Burden, Alison Stock, Frank Morris, Judith Goss, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Wim Joustra and Dave Mitton.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Terry Sanford, Andy Hunt, Andrew Govier, Jackie Govier, Beryl Griffiths, Des Hawkins, Cathy Wiggan and Helen Thorne.

2. Wellington Business Fair

Hattie Winter introduced herself to the Chamber as one of the Economic Development Officers from Taunton Deane Borough Council. She has been in discussions with Terry Sanford and Sue White about helping the Chamber to hold a Business Fair in Wellington. The idea would be to support new and existing businesses in and around the town, with various information stands and guest speakers.

It was suggested to hold the Fair in late February. Previous fairs have been held between 3pm and 7pm to give any kind of business owners the chance to attend. There would be a main room with all the business information

stands and a smaller room where guest speakers would be given half hour slots at set times.

It was agreed that there should be no cost to any of the businesses involved, however Hattie Winter stated that she has a small budget to help set up the event and pay for the venue hire. It was suggested that the Chamber try to get some kind of sponsorship from some of the larger local businesses.

The Chamber then discussed ways of using this opportunity to try and recruit more members. One suggestion was to offer a slight discount to join on the day, maybe half price as there would only be 6 months of the membership year left by that point. It was also suggested to do a draw for free membership for anyone that joins on the day.

Members were asked to provide suggestions for guest speakers for the day.

3. Somerset Chamber Conference

Ian Stock provided a report on the Somerset Chamber Conference that he attended. Please see the attached notes for details.

4. Food Town

John Pragnell delivered a report updating the Chamber on the progress of next year's Food Town event. They are starting a programme from their database to invite producers to come and attend.

The event is planned for Saturday 8th September 2012. More details will be reported to the Chamber as things develop.

Development of Jurston Farm

John Pragnell also reported on the current situation of the proposed Jurston Farm development. The development proposes 600 houses over a timespan of approximately 12 to 16 years (approximately 60 per year being built per year, depending on the demand).

The Prince's Foundation ran an Enquiry by Design workshop in which they invited stakeholders to help design the initial phase. The final design is still being produced from the decisions made from the workshop. The plans are going to unveiled to the public in an exhibition at The United Reformed Church on Monday 12th December between 4pm and 7pm.

The developers have also offered to come to a Chamber meeting to discuss the project with Chamber members.

Christmas Events

Sam Parr informed the Chamber that the Christmas events for the town are all in hand. The first batch of leaflets have gone out to all the shops, and the second batch of leaflets are due to be sent out in local newspapers etc at the

beginning of December. These will hold more exact details of entertainment and events being held.

The entertainment includes various types of music on a stage by the Christmas tree in the High Street. There will also be a mulled wine bar, donkey rides in North Street gardens, a grotto in the old nationwide building and wood carvings outside the old Woolworths building.

Town Council Report

Planning

Planning had been granted for seven houses to be built behind the old Three Cups site, despite the Wellington Town Councillors objecting to it. The planners then put in a request to expand the site. The Councillors wanted this to be rejected, however this application has now been withdrawn.

The Mount Veterinary Hospital put in a planning application to build new premises on the edge of the Cades Farm site. This was rejected as it would have meant building on the green wedge between Wellington and Chelston.

Cornhill

The right of way through Cornhill is expected to be re-opened by Christmas, or the beginning of the new year at the latest. They are waiting for certain public utilities to be reconnected before this can happen.

A planning application has been received for four flats and six shops to replace some of the fire damaged premises. Part of that application also includes 30 dwellings behind Cornhill and Fore Street. This is currently in the initial application stage.

Police Report

PC Dwight Short had reported to the Town Council that crime appears to be going down to more acceptable levels lately.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.