



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

**Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday 26th September 2012 at 6pm
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

Minutes

Present:

Sue White, John Pragnell (Wellington Food Town), Andy Hunt, Jane Osborne and Neb (The Old Sale Rooms), Mr Frank Morris (Retired), Jackie Govier (Wellington Town Council), Cllr Janet Reed and Jane Burden (Mins)

Wellington Town Guide App

Sue White (SW) opened the meeting by welcoming Ian Kevan from TownGuideApps.com to the meeting to update Members on the Wellington Town Guide App.

Ian apologised that the App was taking a little longer than expected, due to rather a lot of data collection still to be finalised. However, with the help of some iphones, Ian was able to show those present the App in its current format.

Using the Wellington Coat of Arms as the App icon, there are then several screen categories for listing of businesses throughout Wellington. Once the App goes live businesses will be able to log in and manage their own data. As businesses may cater for more than one sector, they will be able to have listings in 3 different categories on the App.

Ian explained that the key data to be collected for each business is:

- Business Name
- Address
- Category/(ies)
- Email address
- Telephone Numbers, including mobile numbers
- GOE location of business (see www.getlatlong.com)
- Website details
- Facebook/Twitter details

This is something that he really needs help with at this stage as it is very time consuming. It was suggested asking Courtfields School if they can help as part of a Business Studies project.

JP volunteered to help out by taking photographs of businesses in High Street and South Street. Ian asked that if volunteers were prepared to help, to email him to this effect and he would then send back details of data required.

Ian was also able to confirm that a What's On/Events section was to be included in the App as well as historical information about Wellington.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Ian Stock, Cathy Wiggan, Helen Thorne, Terry Sanford, Judith Goss, Sam Parr and Vivienne Stock-Williams

2. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 25th July 2012

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated prior to this meeting, and no issues were raised from the Minutes. Agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising:

Wellington Food Town report

John Pragnell (JP) reported that the event had been a great success with more people than every having stayed in the town longer on the day. In 2011, 15,000+ people attended and for 2012 it was far in excess of this number. The atmosphere was fantastic and the weather was dry. JP could also report that many stallholders were already requesting to re-book for 2013 and it is hoped to be able to increase the number of stallholders yet again for 2013, hopefully to 50 (2011 = 40, 2012 = 45). JP would like to see the return of a mobile kitchen to the event, with a celebrity chef, and is in discussion with Waitrose with regard to this.

Jane Osborne (JO) asked if the event could be extended down into Mantle Street, but it was confirmed this was not possible due to health and safety issues and that a bus route has to be maintained during the day of the event.

Wellington Town Council – Questions from Chamber

The Town Council minutes had been circulated prior to this meeting – no questions were raised in respect of the minutes.

However, the following issues were raised:

SW raised the matter of the Grant for the Welly Boot Competition, indicating that the monies are not automatically received as you would expect with a grant, but will be paid out on production of receipts. Appears that the monies this year are coming from the "Promotion of Wellington pot". SW confirmed that the monies may not be required this year, but has requested that they be allocated for next year's event. Jackie Govier to raise this issue with Wellington Town Council.

JP queried the expected arrival of the maps/signage in the car parks, as it seems to be taking forever for these to appear in the car parks. It was confirmed that the original design was not agreed as suitable, and a new design was then approved, but no signs have yet appeared. Jackie Govier to chase this up with Greg Dyke.

Wellington Farmers Market report

In the absence of Michael Coate, there was no Wellington Farmer's Market report to this meeting.

3. Chamber Constitution

In the absence of Members attending this meeting, there was no discussion regarding this item at this meeting.

4. Re-branding/Re-launch of Chamber

In the absence of Members attending this meeting, there was no discussion regarding this item at this meeting.

5. Welly Boot Competition

SW reported how this had been a really good day, although very disappointed with the lack of helpers and support from Chamber Members on the day. Events such as this need people to help and support on the day in order to ensure they are successful and that they continue to grow in the future. Sue was able to confirm that there were 2,000+ people through the date on the day, with an estimated figure of £300 (provisional only, exact figure yet to be confirmed) being raised for Go Commando.

Date of next year's event is 14th September 2013.

Jane Osborne queried as to how town events such as the Welly Boot link with the businesses. Sue was able to confirm that the businesses are able to take trade stands at the events, and that they also support with raffle prizes and trophies, confirming how supportive of these events the businesses are.

There was a discussion around the town being currently split into different business “groups” and “spurs” and opportunities for all the groups to work together. JO to look at this in more detail over the coming weeks.

6. Any Other Business

Future of Wellington Chamber – Election of Officers

It is with regret that Sue reported that she is standing down as Chair of Wellington Chamber at the forthcoming AGM, as a result of not getting support from Members. Des Hawkins has also stood down as Vice Chair due to a move out of the area, and Terry Sanford has now also moved to the Exeter area so is unlikely to continue in his role as President. Added to this, Helen Thorne will not be continuing as Treasurer, as in effect she stood down from this role at the last AGM and has been looking after the finances temporarily until a new Treasurer was found, which unfortunately has not happened.

The lack of support was particularly evident at tonight’s meeting with only TWO traders present at the meeting (one of whom is a Chamber member), with the remainder of those present being two Councillors, two retired business Members, the Chairman, Administrator and a dog(!).

JP reiterated the lack of support that Sue has received at key events throughout the year, having seen this for himself at events, adding that he could fully understand her wish to step down at the AGM.

Jackie Govier thanked Sue on behalf of the Town Council for all the hard work she has done on behalf of the Chamber over the years.

Chelston Business Club

Sue advised the meeting of the initial meeting of the Chelston Business Club which is a Coffee Morning being held on 5th October at The Skylark at 10.30am, being organised by Summerfield Developments.

Free Parking

The issue of free town centre parking on Saturdays was raised, as this is an initiative that is currently taking place in Taunton at the moment – parking after 3pm for three Saturdays in September. Jackie Govier advised that this was unlikely to take place in Wellington, as the Taunton initiative was also supported by the Taunton BID but agreed to take it to the council meeting and find out.

However, it was confirmed that there will be free parking in Wellington on the four Saturdays in December in the run up to Christmas –
1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.