

MINUTES FOR THE FIRST CHAMBER OF TRADE MEETING ON 19TH May 2005

Present:

Jacqui Moore (Mungo's), Gareth Kitchen (Cookability/WTC), Peter Blackwell (NCoT), Bernadette Finn (SDC), Diana Parlowski (Farmers Market), Judy Parry (Michael Rigby Assoc.), Verity Cole (Cherubs), Marge Cole (Scissor Scene/Beauty Scene), Peter & Hilarey Roberts (Jumblies), Sarah McCabe (Fusion Gallery), Derek Thomas (W.H. Thomas & Son), M. Mills (Maison Stokes), Lin & Phil Russell-Jones (Novel Hovel), Janet Walshe (Wotton Electric Picture House), Mark Hazel (Mark Hazels Gun Room), Andrew Burns & Pippa Shennam (Martingales), Michael Pain (Amber Business Services), John Cordwell (County Council), Geoff Hill (Regeneration Partnership), Peter Jones (R.P. Jones), Karen & James Pegler (Relish), Kate Lock (Clarences), David Ward (Draw Creative), Sue McClung, Sharon Milliner (Castle Estate Agents), Keith Bryon (Wotton DIY) Dave Jones (Co op).

Apologies:

Wotton Heritage Centre

1. Introduction- Jacqui Moore. JM stated the meeting came from discussions with other traders and as a highlighted need from the Town Action Plan. Previous groups although having many successes eventually failed through lack of interest and commitment from the majority of businesses. An annual membership of £35 was proposed. Jacqui also passed on that from the brief questionnaires received the main areas of concern to local traders are :-
 1. Car parking issues.
 2. Having views of business represented.
 3. Trade events.
 4. Access to more information.
2. Peter Blackwell – President Nailsworth Chamber of Trade. Peter gave his experiences of being involved in NCoT and some of the benefits and achievements. He stated the aim is to involve ALL businesses in the town and at present they have a membership of 72%.
3. Bernadete Finn- Stroud District Council. Bernadette passed on information and the background about the Quick Win Grants, the Shop Front Scheme and The Retail Business Support Programme and pointed out that Business Link can offer 1:1 meetings in Dursley. She stated that recent footfall figures which show a 29% decrease and on Farmers Market days the footfall is increased by 45%.
4. Gareth Kitchen/ Geoff Hill- Wotton Town Council/Town Action Plan. Gareth gave an insight into the issues surrounding this complex area and some proposed possible short term solutions. Geoff explained his input in developing an Action Plan linked to the findings of the Town health check. Opportunity will be given for individuals and businesses to air their views prior to any significant changes.
5. **Vote for the start up of Wotton Chamber of Trade.** Jm asked for all in favour of restarting a traders group to raise their hands. This was carried with a majority.
6. JM suggested a meeting be held on Thursday 16th June at 7.30pm at the Star. All agreed.