

Chamber of Trade – AGM – 27th January 2015

1. Welcome – AW welcomed all to the AGM
2. Thanks to Dave and Debbie for hosting the event at The Swan Hotel
3. Apologies were received from Andrew Ibbotson, Anne Tucker, Andrew Cope, Rob Axford, Nick Franks, Pete Roberts, Steve and Seraphina Berry
4. Overview of 2014 – very successful in terms of members; started with 15 and now have 120; Chamber website has been over-hauled, thanks to Rory McCaffrey; 5 breakfast networking meetings and 4 supper clubs; a trip to Wickwar Brewery, annual BBQ and clay pigeon taster session – thanks to Park Mill Farm and Mark Hazel; Christmas Dinner at The Royal Oak; Idea Exchange – evening event held at The Civic Centre.
5. Proposals for 2015:
 - arrange 4 breakfast meetings and 4 supper club events
 - BBQ and shoot; Christmas event
 - Re-issue the Town Map – print 25000; charge £75 for members and £105 for non-members, using same format as in 2014. Will look to launch earlier this year – hopefully in April; we are currently obtaining quotations for printing
 - Launch of a new tourist website; content will be needed from local businesses who wish to be promoted on it; the Wotton film that was put together by some KLB students will be featured on the website
 - Proposal to have a WUE channel on You Tube; members will have access and be able to create a link to the film from their website
 - Skittles night at The Swan
 - AW and committee will prepare a programme of events to be published on the website and also in The Swan Hotel
6. Other developments:
 - AW has spoken to Chris Pockett at Renishaw who has confirmed that the site in Old Town will not be sold in the short to medium term. It will be developed and Renishaw will use it for their own purposes. Renishaw will not give formal approval for the public to use it as a car park, but unofficially they do not intend to raise any objection at weekends. Renishaw also intend to refurbish the old bakery in the High Street, the intention being to create 2 shops and some flats above. It is anticipated that work will start this year.

- The proposal to hold a market on Sundays is back on the agenda. The suggestion has been made to hold it 10 times in a year. Dave Harrison from the Swan is to form a committee to look into the feasibility of this.
 - Parking – The Chamber has been working closely with various parties – one being Renishaw in relation to the land in Old Town. This is now not an option. Another suggestion was The Tabernacle car park on non-auction days; this has also been withdrawn. However, Colburn Homes have put a proposal to the Town Council to build a car park on the ground at the back of the fire station. The proposal is for 10-12 houses, 100 car parking spaces and space for 2 coaches, with a possible access route to Blue Coat School. Terms have been agreed between the existing landowners, the developers and The Chipping Surgery. Early indications are that the Town Council and Chamber of Trade members are in favour of the proposal. Approval will be required from Gloucestershire County Council in relation to using a a about a Metre of the fire stations land. Full planning permission will then be needed from Stroud District Council. The car park will be paid for by the developers; the freehold will be given to the Town Council; it will be free of charge for users; the Town Council will need to maintain it.
 - AW has also spoken to GCC re changing the restriction on the parking times in the High Street. The Chipping would become a short-stay car park and the new one at the back of the fire station would become long-term.
7. Treasurer’s report – JT provided an income and expenditure breakdown and the bank balance. We have not yet received all the sponsorship money in for the video, so balance in the bank account is less than it should be. The intention is to change the main bank account from Barclays to Lloyds, but we have had problems with changing the signatories. New membership fees will be £40, with a reduced fee of £25 for charities.
 8. Elections – AW handed over to Steve Tasker, the Vice President. ST invited attendees to stand for the positions of President, Treasurer, committee member and Vice President. Dave Harrison, proprietor of The Swan, agreed to join the committee. No other nominations were received. All were in favour of re-electing AW as President, Jill Tebb as Treasurer and Steve Tasker as Vice President. The existing committee members agreed to stand for a further year.
 9. Next committee meeting to be held at The Swan Hotel on Wednesday 18th February.
 10. End of meeting