

# Wotton Chamber of Trade

## Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016 – 8:00 pm

**Present:** Alex Wilkinson, Jill Tebb, Linda Cohen, Paul Smith, John Turner, Mo Morgan, Claire Wilkinson, David Harrison, Jan Baber

**Apologies:** Trevor Mason, David Jackson

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AW welcomed new members Linda Cohen and Jan Baber to the meeting and advised that Trevor Mason and David Jackson had both sent their apologies. Andy Starling, Kevin Chambers and Caroline Hazel have all stepped down from the committee. Kevin was doing the Social Media which has not been touched for 3 months now and Linda Cohen said she was happy to take this over.

### **Car Park behind the Surgery**

Everything was due to go to Planning on Friday but there was still some legal paperwork to be done. It is ready to go but has not been submitted. Martin Evans provided AW with an up to date plan which he passed around to the members and which has to be returned to Martin.

PS mentioned that there is another application going in for Court Orchard which is outside the development boundary. This is likely to go before the same Committee. The Town Council are likely to object to Court Orchard. It could be that the Town Council will be agreeing to one and opposing the other so PS suggested it might be better to hold back for 3 months. AW commented that Martin Evans was ready to go in and had taken professional advice. Jill Tebb said that it was a different issue. It was suggested that the longer it is left, the more likely it will be that the anti-campaigners will shout.

### **Council perspective and proposed Council Survey**

The Council are planning on doing a survey on the car parking, community parking and revised planning. It is important to get the most up to date information to get support and to ensure that decisions are made on facts and not emotions. The survey will take place over 3 days on a Monday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. There will be 9 Councillors on duty counting the traffic. Jill Tebb felt this was not early enough in the day.

AW produced a letter from the Council where 6 out of 8 people had supported it. AW said it was a golden opportunity for the town to have a free car park.

### **Issues, lighting, security**

AW has been working hard behind the scenes to alleviate the issues regarding lighting and security. Quotations have been obtained to install low level lighting, possibly LED, including CCTV at a cost of £25,000. Having spoken to local businesses there has been £6,500 pledged already with contributions from £500 to £2,000. AW is to talk to Ecotricity also regarding funding.

There is also talk about an Electric Car Charging point. The response from the local business community so far has been fantastic. It is also a good PR promotion for the town.

### **Update on Chamber petition**

Mr Thomas has collected 500 signatures himself so far with over 1000 overall in the town. AW is of the opinion that it is a very positive thing and someone needs to try and talk with the Town Council to agree that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to obtain a £2 million car park for free.

The land was originally going to be given to the Town freehold but the lawyers were unhappy with this as the Town could in years to come build on it so there is now to be a 999 year Lease to prevent any building in the future.

PS asked AW to inform Martin Evans about the other application at Court Orchard so that he is aware of the situation. He also felt that no one in the media knows about the petition and its needs advertising although Jill Tebb felt that the more you put out in the media, the more trouble the opposition will likely cause.

### **Wotton in Bloom**

The Chamber has been heavily involved in Wotton in Bloom and JT confirmed that it has been a successful year but she is not happy with the weeds and dirt around the town. PS advised that the Town Council had employed a new Caretaker at the beginning of the year and he had made a start but Mark has injured his back so the Caretaker has had to take over some of Mark's work and therefore has not had the time. JT suggested that a working party was needed.

### **Wotton Blues Festival**

This event was initiated by the Chamber and needs more PR done on promoting it. JT suggested that a leaflet could be produced to hand out to all the towns. There is currently £12,000 in the pot. The target is to have a minimum of 500 people attend. The Chamber paid for the logo and the Town map advertisement. All the traders have been emailed to ask if they would like to be open on the Saturday and Sunday.

### **Fair Trade Town**

Trevor did a photo with Alex and the Organisers which should have gone to the papers. AW is to talk with Trevor to see where the Certificate is. Linda agreed to do something on Social Media to cover this.

### **Co-op update**

John Turner advised that the Co-op is to have a refit around October time. He is to talk to the Manager to get some pictures. The last refit was around 10 years ago. There is talk about a side or back entrance being considered. A side entrance looks favourable as the car park is not level. There are also rumours that the Post Office will be going in the Co-op also but JT was not sure on this. Jill Tebb suggested to John that the Co-op needs to have more baskets as what they have look lovely but it is not enough.

### **Business West & WCOT Breakfast at Renishaw's IC**

There is to be a Business Breakfast on the 28<sup>th</sup> September and one of the top men at British Telecom has been secured to discuss Broadband in the area.

### **Social Events**

The Curry evening on the 16<sup>th</sup> August was good and AW said that we need to be doing new things. He has been talking to Stefanie van Stokkom at Newark Park. Claire Wilkinson is to

talk to Stefanie. Other suggestions were to have an evening of Wine and Canapes, an Open evening and a Supper Club. It was also thought that a calendar was necessary for the year ahead.

### **Treasurer's update**

Jill Tebb brought to everyone's attention that Wotton Travel had not been members for 4 years as they appear to have been coming under Renishaw's membership.

Jill to email an update to Jan when she has it to hand.

### **Poster update**

There is now a new site proposed for the poster. This requires funding. There is a £365 fee for advertising consent.

### **Town Map**

Glide Media distributed 10,000 of the 25,000 maps produced. Jill Tebb thought it was necessary to start looking in September/October for next year's map.

### **PR and Social Media**

Now that Kevin has resigned, it is necessary to get back on board with the Facebook page, Twitter and LinkedIn. David Harrison felt that if you want a job done well you need to pay someone to do it professionally. Linda Cohen said she was happy to take over the social media and that it requires content that is relevant to be put up consistently. Linda requires the passwords for the pages or to be made an admin and she will talk to Trevor about this.

### **Christmas under the Edge**

The Town Council has provided £300 to pay for the St John's Ambulance, Insurance and Printing. Nicky put the invoices in Jill's office on Monday and is to provide an update. Andrew Starling has said that he may be able to lend some assistance.

Jill Tebb asked David Harrison if he had received a reindeer which is to be decorated and put in the window for children to guess the name. Nicky is going to attend the next meeting.

### **AOB**

John Turner asked for an update on the Moon application and was advised that it went to DCC yesterday (16<sup>th</sup> August). PS said that there had been some concern that it has been going on for some time and that proof was now required that the money will definitely be available and it has been deferred to the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Mo asked what is happening to the Old Bakery property at the top of the High Street and it was confirmed that it is going to be a shop downstairs and either a flat or offices upstairs and the work is to commence in September.

John Turner suggested that regarding an Open evening, rather than having 1 or 2 businesses separately, it might be more effective to gather all in one place, maybe in the Town Hall.

Linda is to talk to Nicky about getting a profile and putting it on Social Media.