

Wotton Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting 20th September 2016

Attendees:

Alex Wilkinson

Claire Wilkinson

Jon Turner

Linda Cohen

Jill Tebb

Trevor Mason

Paul Smith

Apologies:

Dave Harrison

Jan Baber

Guest:

Christine Sweet – Dementia Friendly Town; member Trust In You.

1. Minutes of last meeting - on Chamber website; approved by committee.
2. Dementia Friendly Town – stemmed from Prime Minister's Challenge 2020, document listing what government wanted to do; creating awareness and understanding within communities. Some Gloucestershire organisations created a programme and provided community dementia links. Part of WOT's community plan is to work towards becoming a dementia friendly town. This is happening across the country. CS has been attending dementia strategy meetings and associating with other in the county who are keen to get it started. Part of programme is training people to recognise the signs and learn how to deal with dementia. CS will send links to various websites. An alliance has been created in the UK and within this there are a number of bodies and people who can provide sessions to help businesses support others in the community. CS has been in touch with the WTC and Regeneration Committee. Jon Turner is keen that WUE Co-op can be part of this. Wants staff training and awareness so they can help support their customers. TM has suggested CS writes an article for the Chamber members and he will put it on the Chamber website. LC suggested the Chamber members should have an awareness training session. CS will put this in the newsletter. Consider putting it on the plan for 2017 and do this as part of the national dementia awareness day.
3. Car park behind the Chipping Surgery - PR update: Gazette reporter wrote first story; they contacted Martin Evans of Colburn Homes who informed the gazette that the application

was imminent; reporter contacted a number of people who expressed anti-feelings; AW wrote a letter to put forward an alternative view. Application is still awaiting submission – held up by the lawyers. Results of the parking survey undertaken by WTC - outcome appears that 85% of those approached were in favour and that as most local car parks were at full capacity, in excess of an additional 50 spaces would be required as a minimum. The survey was done in the daytime. It was noted that car parks in the evenings were always full to capacity. Most of those who were asked were from outside of Wotton and view is that the proposed car park is needed. PS reported that certain members of WTC who are not in favour of it could refuse to allow the council to accept ownership of the car park.

4. Pledge letter – Chamber looking to raise £25k needed for low-level lighting, electric car charging points and security cameras; currently £6500 pledged by local businesses. AW intends to write to every member and non-member businesses to ask for pledges. Within this will be an option to pledge what a business wants to offer and also give businesses the option to remain anonymous. Those businesses which give at least £100 will have their name on a plaque, if they want this. Proposal is that an official letter is sent with reply slips. The proposal is to obtain a quote from Jan Baber to do this work. In principle, committee accepted this, but agreed it should only be sent once the application has been submitted.
5. Chamber petition – estimated that there are around 1000 signatures on the petition in favour which some local businesses have been collated. Intention is to submit the petition when the application goes in.
6. Shop update – old off-licence has been let and will be selling soft furnishings, furniture etc. Opening in 2 weeks' time. AW suggested they should be invited to Renishaw breakfast as guests. AW suggested we also invite the new tenant of the Baytree Kitchen shop which is to become a bathroom and kitchen business. AW had e-mail from Chris Pockett re the Stokes Bakery. It will be one shop on the ground floor and two flats above. Work is underway.
7. Blues Festival - possible shortage of marshals. TM Will helping on the behalf of the Chamber and taking photos for the BluesFest.
8. Business West and Chamber of Trade breakfast at Renishaw's – 28/9. New members – United Brewery will attend. Estimate 12 members so far. LC to send reminder. JT says e-mail addresses need to be sorted out as many are wrong. Jan Baber has agreed to call every member and update e-mail addresses. AW suggested we invite the new soft furnishing business to the breakfast as Chamber guests. TM will be Chamber representative as AW is on holiday.
9. Social events – no updates.
10. Treasurer's update – Hayley will e-mail figure to AW. Membership up to 90.
11. Town Map – no update.
12. PR – marketing and social media; AW suggested Chamber could have a presence in The Wotton Directory. Cost will be £100 per page. AW approached Wotton Cinema for advertising. Screen shot for Chamber would be £50 per month. No decisions on this. LC

says we are getting good engagement. LC wants businesses to send in photographs etc and she will post it.

13. Christmas – Under – The – Edge – Nicky Nevitt has spoken to AW and said all arrangements are well underway.
14. AOB - suggestion made that we should e-mail all members to say that minutes of committee meetings are available on the website as members don't know when these are available. JT reported that visiting numbers are up and we should start organising the leaflet for 2017. JT asked who would be organising the Xmas trees and lights and arranging for them to be put up and taken down. Proposal that that it shouldn't be the Chamber. Too many shops didn't have either a tree or a tree and no lights on. Needs further discussion. Proposal by LC that new-comers to the town ie new Renishaw employees should be engaged with what's going on in the town. LC suggested we should create an awareness for these people and perhaps invite them to events as a welcome. Suggestion is that we produce a welcome pack. AW attended the Gloucestershire Market Town's Forum event hosted by Stow on the Wold Town Council. A presentation was given by delegates from Chipping Norton on how to create a digital town. The idea is that a mobile app is created, perhaps a walkers' app, which takes visitors on a virtual tour of the town. The delegates will offer to do a digital survey and report for towns – cost £199 – to show what could be done. Chipping Norton got funding from the Mary Porter's fund. AW intends to raise this with WTC.
15. Next meeting – 25th October.