



WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Court House
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WARWICK
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Jayne Topham
Town Clerk

ECONOMIC & TOURISM COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 20th April 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillor P S Birdi	Councillor Mrs L Bolton
Councillor Mrs D Da Cruz	Councillor R Eddy Chairman
Councillor R Edgington (sub)	Councillor J Holland

Co-opted Members:

Mrs J Baldry, Mrs S Butcher, Mrs E Healey,

361. Apologies – The Mayor, Councillors Ashford, Cross, Grainger, Littlejohn, Morris, Murphy Mr A. Klein, Mr L Bartlett & Mrs C Hodgetts.

362. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

None.

363. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2017 – It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record.

364. Town Centre Management - Town Clerk to report – This item will be included at future meetings. The Town Centre Management group is not meeting separately and this meeting will discuss any future issues. The Chamber of trade is acting as a liaison with retailers, Sue had sent a message to all Chamber members prior to this meeting to see if any issues needed to be raised. There were no issues forthcoming. It was not clear, at this stage, what, if any support, was being given from WDC. The Town Council are keen to ensure that Warwick town centre thrives despite the threat of the internet. Change of use requirements were discussed as inconsistencies have been raised with planning. Town Clerk to review with Tracey Darke WDC.

365. Warwick Town Retail Radio

PCSO Peter Groom SNT gave a background to the Retail Radio's successes and failures in the past. The benefits were reiterated, including advising on missing people, road closures, scams, thefts etc. A discussion was held around issues of confidentiality,

protection of foreign visitors being wrongly identified, support to ensure systems are correctly used.

The cost to retailers was quoted to be around £24 per month.

Councillors were in favour of the scheme. It was resolved to allow the Court House Roof to be surveyed to see if it was suitable for a radio mast. Town Council's broadband would also be needed. Sue Butcher agreed to contact Chamber Members to ascertain interest.

366. Linen Street Car Park

Update from Paul Garrison WDC. Following Paul's presentation to Full Council in February 2017 Paul returned to update Councillors as there is such concerns for retailers, residents and visitors. Paul advised that closure of Linen Street was planned for early 2018. A signage plan is being looked at for temporary car parks and a safety audit for proposed car parking at St Mary's Lands. Sainsbury's car park is an alternative for race days. Negotiations are taking place with Taylor Wimpey regarding the residents car parking permits at Martinique Square. A feasibility study for the replacement of Linen Street car park is due to be presented to WDC Executive on the 28th June 2017. Councillors raised the following concerns:

The temporary plans need to fit with WCC new one way road layout in the town centre. There was a call to have a Warwick Town Centre Car Park Strategy.

Agreed plans for St Mary's Lands will be effected. Paul agreed to attend the next St Mary's land meeting.

367. Gypsy's & Travellers.

Cllr M A Grainger to provide an update. This item was deferred until the June meeting.

368. Rotary events

Alan Bailey to advise Councillors of future events.

The Rotary Club serves Warwick's community. Throughout the year events and activities are organised. Fund raising at the events enable the Rotary to support the groups aim of helping and assisting others in the form of charity giving and physical help.

1. Thai Festival at Warwick Racecourse
2. Carols at the Castle
3. Warwick Town Bonfire & Fireworks Display
4. Schools Concert in St. Mary's Church
5. Pancake Races in the Square
6. Lights of Love Tree at Christmas, enabling people to remember loved ones

Activities are also aimed at Youth, Community and International concerns.

Warwick Town Council wishes to thank the Rotary for all that they do in Warwick and offered help and support where it could.

369. Warwick Visitor Information Audit – Report

Requirements have been completed by Warwick Tourist Information Centre. It was agreed to review the report in the Autumn to ensure all areas were captured.

370. Visitor Information Centre & Court House usage.

(i) Manager Mrs L Healey to report:

Staffing

SLS has now terminated her contract with WTC. It is not essential to look for an immediate replacement as the staffing level and volunteer bank is adequate to take us through the forthcoming season.

Leam VIC has now transferred back to WDC.

Work Placements

A German Student will be coming to us on a two-week placement in May.

A student from Warwickshire College who is studying Travel and Tourism will also be joining us on Mondays from May 1st to complete a 60-hour work placement.

Statistics

January was 13% down, however February and March have been very positive and generally, much better with footfall in Feb 20% up and March 27% up. April to date has also, shown an increase, though Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday were very quiet, I would suggest next year the opening hours are reduced to 10.00-14.00 hours.

Website Stats

Visits to the new website remain consistent, from June onwards we will be able to show monthly comparisons. After the home page the places of interest and events pages are the most viewed. We are always looking at ways to improve the site, adding more content where needed.

Publications and Publicity

The Warwick guide is being updated and this year we will be introducing a counter pad to run alongside it. The Court House leaflet is also being re-ordered in a small quantity, this is useful for those interested in the history of the Court House and in particular for the Unlocking Warwick tours of the building.

We are in the process of designing a pop up banner mainly to promote the VIC but also mentioning room hire at the Court House, we can then take this out and about. LH looking at pricing and will report at the next meeting.

We would also like to look at funding for a new Parks and Gardens leaflets and a re-print of the Warwick Tree Walk.

(ii) 'Fighting Turpins' Project – Ady Bush has kindly loaned a framed picture of the Turpin belt which is on display in the Tourist Information Centre. Ady is carrying out a talk about the Turpin brothers at the next In the Ballroom event.

Sound System in the Ballroom- a third quote was obtained to resolve the sound system issues. The quote mentioned the need for an acoustics survey. The costs for this is around £900 it was agreed that the Town Clerk would speak to Shire Hall to find out the benefits of such a survey before any decisions were made.

Town Trail – the trail had not been updated for some time and it was agreed that Councillors would feedback to Liz any suggestions before she approached Warwick Society.

Curtains – it was agreed to wait until the acoustics survey was carried out and also a visit

from WDC planning conservation team to determine if planning permission was needed.

371. Grant request.

Warwick Words £3,000 – it was resolved to grant the full amount.

372. Report from Co-Opted Members

Mrs J Baldry discussed her visitor numbers and advised Councillors of the pass being offered by Shakespeare's England due to be launched later this summer.

Signed.....

Dated.....