



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of the Wellington Town Centre Working Group held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 27 August in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington.

Present: Councillors Lithgow, Powell-Brace, McGuffie and Thorne
Keith Wheatley

Kathryn Hemensley - Town Clerk

1. Apologies: Cllr J Lloyd, Sharon Davis, Adrian Hooper.

2. Pop-up Shop

Refurbishment of the premises was proceeding – repairs, painting, new carpet (donated by C&C carpets).

The lease was with Solicitors and their initial review had raised a range of queries. Their estimate for completion of the review and drawing up the User Licence was 6 weeks which was a source of frustration among the group. There was already a list of 9 potential hirers and it had been hoped to start occupation from 1 September. It was agreed this could not now happen as Due Diligence was essential to protect against risk to the Council as leaseholder. Public Liability insurance would not be available until the lease was formally signed. A revised and realistic proposed date for signing the lease was set for 14th October with the Royal British Legion as the first tenant. A full launch would be arranged to maximise publicity.

The group had previously agreed that the pop-up shop could not let to businesses who would directly compete with existing businesses; however this was no longer to be a requirement and KH would take advice on this as there might be legal restrictions.

3. Film Festival

ML and KW had met with Porter Dodson Solicitors who had expressed an interest in sponsoring part of the Film Festival. KW and Deb Richardson (Event co-ordinator) would be attending a meeting of the Wellington Arts Association as a courtesy to advise them of the plans for the event and see if any additional volunteers to support the event might come forward. It was possible that further sponsors might come forward, but the focus would remain firmly with the Town Council as the festival organiser. RC had offered to provide a festival programme.

4. Town Centre Signage

The group deferred this item for future consideration, noting that the Basins could now be a signed destination.

5. Christmas Lights switch-on event

The decision of the Council to have the event on the 30th November instead of the 23rd November was disappointing for the meeting as retailers had specifically asked for the earlier date.

6. Any Other Business

(a) JT explored the idea that the meeting might take on the role of acting as spokesperson for Wellington traders now that the Wellington Business Association would be ceasing in operation. The group discussed with no formal decision arrived at.

(b) NPB noted that the land adjacent to the Longforth Road public conveniences was marked as for sale, and queried ownership. It was thought to be owned by the District Council, and ML would make enquiries, as ownership by the Town Council was potentially desirable.

(c) KW noted that with the closure of the post office there is no high profile post box for town use given the low key, somewhat obscured location on the old post office building. He would make enquiries regarding having a red post box installed in a suitably visible location in the town centre.

(e) MMG raised concerns about the closure of the Post Office and hoped that pressure could be put on them to get a new venue opened as soon as possible – preferably before Christmas. It was noted that the current venue closed against the Post Office's wishes and that ongoing negotiations are proceeding at a prospective venue.

(f) KH reported one enquiry concerning the promotional space since the signage had been erected.

7. Date of next meeting

No date was proposed.

The meeting ended 6.50 pm

Members: Councillors Lithgow (Chair), Thorne, Powell-Brace, McGuffie, Pringle – Kosikowsky, and the Mayor (Councillor Lloyd)
Richard Coupe, Sharon Davis, Keith Wheatley, Adrian Hooper.