



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of the Wellington Town Centre Working Group held on Wednesday 28 February 2018 at 5p.m. in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington

Present: Councillors James, Lithgow and Shepherd.

Apologies: Councillors Govier and Russell-Cairns

Greg Dyke – Town Clerk

1. Appointment of Chairman

Councillor Shepherd was appointed as Chair of the Group

2. To consider the co-option of members of the public

The terms of reference of the Group allowed the co-option of members of the public who will have “some particular relevant experience or expertise relating to matters under consideration by the Working Group”.

It was agreed that the follow persons be invited to be co-opted on to the Group:

Keith Wheatley – Around Wellington

Richard Coupe – The Edge

Adrian Hooper – Mad Dog

Sharon Davis – Interiors and Flowers

SNOB

Peter Watts – Chair, WBA

3. Budgetary Control and Authority to spend.

The requirements of the Council’s Financial Regulations were such that the group did not have to power to incur expenditure without the agreement of Council. Any items of expenditure would therefore be submitted to Council for approval as soon as possible.

4. Town Centre Promotional Space

In November last year the opportunity arose for the Town Council to take on responsibility for licensing the promotional space in front of the Old Post Office. The Council saw this as an opportunity to help contribute to the vibrancy of the town centre and at the same time gain some income from commercial letting of the space.

Further consideration was given to an overall policy, suitable charges and terms and conditions.

It was agreed to follow the booking form, letter and permit currently used by T.D.B.C. It was also suggested that a charge of £100 per day be made for commercial bookings. Use of the space to promote local events, clubs, societies and organisations would be free of charge.

5. Wellington Business Association

The WBA had shown an interest in the work of the Group. As a result, members had agreed to attend the AGM of the Association (later that evening) to present “an open forum to discuss empty retail premises”

6. Date of next meeting

5.30p.m. Tuesday 20 March 2018

The following points were made as matters that the Group would need to be cognisant of as discussions proceeded:

What we have no control over:

1. Business rates
2. Rents
3. Decisions by “multi national” chains e.g. Banks to leave the High Street

Necessary to recognise changing trends in shopping.

What have we done already

Community Warden to enhance town centre. Paint and repair street furniture
Enhance street furniture

- Replace damaged bike loops
- town centre railings

Open town centre wi fi

Visit Wellington FB Site

Taken over promotional space in town centre

In the past we have:

Grant aided South Street traders

“Free After Three” parking trial – 2013

Festival Fortnight – Tour of Britain – 2010

Portas Pilot – 2012

Public meeting – 2009

Investigated possibility of a Street Market – 2010 & 2012

Regular town centre events

Food Festival – September

Street Fair – June

Christmas Lights Switch On – December (changed to a Saturday in 2009 at 4p.m. at the request of traders)

Carnival – September

The meeting ended at 5.40p.m.

