



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of the Wellington Town Centre Working Group held at 5.30pm on Monday 25th February in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington.

Present: Councillors Lithgow, James and Barr
Richard Coupe, Keith Wheatley

Kathryn Hemensley– Town Clerk
Gill Croucher – Town Clerk’s Assistant

1. Apologies: Councillors Shepherd (Chairman) and Russell-Cairns; Peter Watts

2. Updates since last meeting:

2a. Film Festival (FF)

Councillor Lithgow updated the meeting as follows:-

- He and Keith had recently met with the FF Co-ordinator – Rowen – to share ideas
- Rowen has been in contact with Merlin Cinema to start discussions
- It’s essential to work around film distributors as they dictate screening schedules
- April 2020 has been identified as a possible month for the festival
- It’s envisaged the festival will run over 3 or so days within one given week
- Possible venues could be the cinema, park but schools, public houses, and other organisations will also be considered
- Some events might be film-related rather than a film itself eg a discussion group

2b. Pop-up Shop

An email update from Cllr Shepherd was shared with members of the group:-

As before, it was noted that a sample lease had been received which was awaiting legal review, with three amendments required – break-clause period, repairing term and subletting.

The intended Solicitor could not act for us as there was a conflict of interests, so an alternative was being sought. Legal advice to date was for Perrys to provide a revised lease incorporating the 3 amendments above which could be signed once reviewed.

Peter had been preparing a licence for users, and an update on this would be sought outside of the meeting.

Discussions followed about the need to promote the enterprise with appropriate publicity, including sharing details with local partnerships. It was envisaged that the proposed start date for the lease of 1 April 2019 might now need be delayed.

3. House of Somerset (HOS)

Following a presentation in November 2018, a HOS representative recently updated the Council concerning progress. Architects were currently being appointed and it was hoped to have full planning submitted by the end of May. HOS intended to meet again with the Council once plans were finalised, and had asked to be put in touch with any 'town centre regeneration' group. It was agreed that the most appropriate contact would be Richard, as Chair of the Wellington Business Association. Contact details would be passed to HOS.

4. Town Centre Signage

Signage around the town was last looked at some 7/8 years ago by the Council and the Wellington Business Association. Current aspiration was to install a series of finger posts to guide visitors from the bus station to key locations such as shops, the park, the Basins, and the monument. Richard suggested likely costs per sign might vary from £800 - £1500 depending on how many 'fingers' are included, and he would have a look at up-to-date costings. A town centre map for the bus station was also discussed, which could be quite costly as would need to be housed in a robust framework. Asda could possibly be approached to use their existing metal framework. Graphics for previous town maps had been produced by Carly Press.

5. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will take place at 5.30pm on Tuesday 26 March 2019 at the Council office.

The meeting ended 6.30 pm

Members: Councillors Shepherd (Chair), Lithgow, Russell-Cairns, Barr and the Mayor (Councillor James)
Richard Coupe, Sharon Davis, Emma Ransom-Bellamy, Peter Watts, Keith Wheatley, Adrian Hooper.