



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of the Wellington Town Centre Working Group held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 22 January 2019 in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington.

Present: Councillors Lithgow, Russell-Cairns and Barr
Sharon Davis, Richard Coupe, Peter Watts

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

1. Apologies: Councillors Shepherd (Chairman), and James; Keith Wheatley

2. Updates since last meeting:

2a. Film Festival (FF)

Councillor Lithgow gave an update covering the following key points:-

- Due to time constraints the FF would most likely come to fruition in 2020, not this year
- The potential FF Co-ordinator (Rowen) had confirmed that she would be willing to take up this role
- Cllr Lithgow and Keith were due to meet with Rowen to start planning and set up some likely time frames, and would report back to the group thereafter
- Rowen would take the lead on the project and use her expertise to suggest the best dates. She would be responsible for liaising with appropriate external bodies
- Other individuals were keen to contribute and it was excellent that this project had the support of the full Council

2b. Pop-up Shop

Pete gave an update which advised on a number of issues:-

- Costings had been tweaked to increase the provisional sum for electricity
- A lease pro forma had been received which needed to have particular review around 3 items, firstly the term (2 yrs) and the break clause (1 yr), secondly that it should not be a fully-repairing lease, and thirdly that permission to sub-let was required.
- The managing group (Pete etc) would carry out an informal conditional survey, with photographs, at the commencement of the lease
- An update was required from Councillor Shepherd regarding timeframes for the lease to start, subject to proper legal review, and this was hoped to be by 1st April
- A booking system would be set up to be ready at commencement

- Pete would take on the 'day-to-day' management through his Community Interest Company, which had been budgeted for as 1 hour per week, and a monthly invoice would be submitted to the Council
- The pop-up-shop facility would be promoted on Pete's Community Interest webpage
- Councillor Barr offered a fortnightly free window-cleaning service, and offered his services as part of the management group
- It was agreed a simple pointing system would be drawn up to enable transparency when prioritising applications to rent the premises – preference to be given to local organisations
- If organisations wished to share the premises this would be acceptable
- The premises no longer has the previous odour of fish, but will still need an initial clean, for which £300 has been budgeted.
- Emphasis was reiterated that premises hirers should not be enabled to undercut established local businesses
- A group consisting of Pete, Richard, Marcus and Ben would now proceed to draw up the licence agreement for hirers

3. Other Items for consideration

3a. Ice Rink

Councillor Russell-Cairns asked the group whether there was interest in trying to bring a Christmas skating rink into the town, as is common practice (and highly popular) in other towns and cities. Costings could be looked into, and there was also the challenge of finding a suitable town-centre location. The group considered this a very good idea and Cllr Russell-Cairns would do some further research.

3b Central Government High Street Fund

Information was circulated about this fund of £675 million available to support the sustainability of High Streets. On balance it was felt that Wellington was unlikely to be able to benefit from this fund as proposals had to be submitted at Borough/District Council level and initial expressions of interest needed to be received by the end of March 2019. The emphasis was on building/town centre design and reading between the lines, the fund was in place to support run-down communities rather than a town like Wellington.

4. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will take place at 5.30pm on Monday 25 February 2019 at the Council office.

The meeting ended 7.15 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.

Deferred Item

Town Centre Signage *This issue had been discussed at previous meetings but was now deferred to an appropriate future meeting. It was earlier noted that finger post signs can cost in excess of £1,000 each and more than one might be needed to provide continuity. It was hoped that ID Verde might be able to provide competitive costings for fitting signs at the appropriate time, also noted that Planning Permission would be required which would add to costs.*