



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of the Wellington Town Centre Working Group held on Tuesday 11 September 2018 at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington

Present: Councillor Shepherd (Chairman)
Councillors Lithgow and Barr
Adrian Hooper, Rowan Wilde, Richard Coupe (The Edge) and Keith Wheatley (Around Wellington)

Apologies: The Mayor (Councillor James), Councillor Russell-Cairns, Sharon Davis and Emma Ransom-Bellamy

Greg Dyke – Town Clerk

1. Film Festival – update

Considerable progress had been made in the planning of a proposed Film Festival. Meetings had taken place with representatives of the Ilfracombe Film Festival and SW Film Hub who were able to give the benefit of their experience. Rowan Wilde had also indicated that she might be prepared to take a leading role in the organisation of the Festival.

The Town Council had previously been informed that it was anticipated that the event would not be self-funding initially and that the Town Council might be called upon to offer financial assistance. It was noted that the Ilfracombe Festival raised £8k before the event and took £4k at the box office.

The plan would be to start with a modest event in Wellington with a request for a grant from the Council together with the costs being underwritten up to a certain level.

It was agreed that discussions on the organisation of a Film Festival continue and that the Council consider a financial contribution during its upcoming budget setting exercise

2. Rental of property in town for community/small business use

Discussions regarding the proposal for Wellington Town Council to take a lease of an empty premise in town had also progressed.

The aim of the shop would be to give small businesses an opportunity to trade in the town centre for a limited period and raise the profile of their business.

The owner of the vacant shop at 31 Fore Street had therefore been approached and an encouraging response had been received.
It was agreed to continue discussions regarding what the rental cost might be.

3. Proposal for a new street market in Wellington

This was another suggestion that had received some initial discussion by the Group. The Clerk pointed out that the Town Council had carried out quite a bit of research on this topic in 2013. A report had been submitted to the Council at that time and it was agreed to circulate that report to members to inform any future consideration.

4. Continuation of the Working Group

Although the Group had reached the end of its original, planned timetable it was agreed that it should continue in order to maintain an overview of town centre developments and ideas.

5. Date of next meeting

5.30pm Tuesday 9 October 2018

The meeting ended at 6.30pm

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, Dr. Joanne O'Hara