



Wadebridge and District chamber of Commerce

President: Mr G Stanbury

Chairman: Mr D Rowe Vice Chairman: Mr D Walford
Hon. Secretary: Mr A M Gregan Hon. Treasurer: Mrs A Jackson

Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting of the Wadebridge and District Chamber of Commerce which took place on Wednesday 20th April at The Churchill Bar, Wadebridge

Present: Darren Rowe and Dominic Walford (Riverside Financial Planning), Stephen Frankel (Carhart Mill), Steve Knightley (Mayor), Sarah Prosser (Local Eyes), Fiona Jolley (NCA), Ann Jackson (Treasurer), Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Nigel Flannigan (Ralph and Co), Rupert Wilson (Rick Steins Seafood), Grenville and Susan Stanbury (Kittows), Harriet Wild (Elixir), Richard Alexander (Alexander Accounting), Malcolm Retallick (Wadebridge Osteopaths)

Apologies: Phil Chanter and Helen Lantern (Police), Andy Jolley (NCA)

Matters Arising:

Mid Summer Madness walk: Darren praised their efficiency. He said they have done a really good job of encouraging the walk, and it's really great that they communicated with the Chamber throughout.

They have asked the Chamber whether shops would support the event and participate in a 10% discount voucher to be given to the walkers on the day of the event. This would be for a set period of time. The organisers would then list the supporting businesses in the post event report to show appreciation. They also believe that it will encourage the walkers back into Wadebridge town centre, which can only be a good thing for retail. They would be happy to write up the discount coupons themselves.

WREN: Since the January launch, momentum has been maintained. Installation has started this week. The process of registering the group as an industrial providence society has now been completed. This means WREN can now officially be constituted, which means any decision making can be official. WREN is now a formalised society with clear rules. There will be a steering group meeting directly after tonight's Chamber meeting to discuss this further. Any members can have a say, at a £1 for a lifetime membership. Because of the breakdown in the Feed in Tariff, WREN may have to pull the plug on large scale 'solar allotments'. There is still a chance the Planners will accept WREN's bid as it is in the communities' interest and not just for one business/person's benefit. The large scale solar allotments could be described as lots of roofs in one field. Darren praised WREN for getting Wadebridge in the news so often and generating so much press and it's willingness to support local the community, which is undoubtedly a shared goal with the Chamber.

Royal Cornwall: We have two stands free. Well worth going for it as they are heavily discounted. There are a few outstanding deposits, which NCA would appreciate being settled. Darren said that

anyone wanting to sell great ideas should take one up.

Sainsbury's have now revised their plans. They've lowered the height of the building and reduced the size of the shop. The 106 agreement will stay in place, but is yet to be finalised. The Chamber are planning to meet with them soon to hear their plans. Steve Knightley acknowledged that public consultation clearly works, as he feels that the plans are more aesthetically pleasing than previously. He believes that if we were to get a supermarket, this would be the best plan that Wadebridge could ask for. He said that the potential 106 moneys would be of high benefit to Wadebridge people, which included improving parking facilities, a BMX park and a better link to the Camel Trail. Darren would like to hear back from Chamber members about whether they are interested or not in Sainsbury's coming to Wadebridge, and whether they would like the supermarket to present to the group. It was explained that there is some land that Sainsbury's are unlikely to get planning permission for as offices, which could be used as a BMX park instead. Grenville would like to see a youth centre by the proposed BMX park on the Sainsbury's site. Sarah said it was real pity that the attraction of getting a BMX park to the town rests on the shoulders of Sainsbury's, but it was accepted that these installations do cost a lot of money.

Steve Knightley said that the youth Facebook group are eager to get a BMX park in Wadebridge and are thrilled at the possibility of having the park in Higher Trent, because of the proximity to the school and sports centre etc. He also explained that the Youth Council that the Town Council are setting up will give young people a better say in the town. Any young people that would like to get involved with this should contact the Town Council at the town hall.

The Big Lunch Street Party on 5th June: It's all running nicely. Barnecliff's have very kindly agreed to make a big cake again, which should make the street party a success come rain or shine. The Royal Cornwall Showground will lend 150 chairs, and tables have been lent from various Churches, and Trelawney Garden Centre. Stuart Summers has kindly donated the use of his truck and trailer to transport the tables and chairs. The organisers of the Mid Summer Madness walk are holding a **cupcake competition** during the Big Lunch – just come along on the day with a well decorated cupcake and you may win a prize! It is shaping up to be another successful event so please come along with your families or just yourself and join in this community gathering.

Crime prevention: Helen and Phi are now running the police cadets. It's going really well! Among other activities, they have taken part in a beach cleanup in Polzeath. They are pleased to report that there's low numbers of reported crime. They have advised us they have now have caught a prolific shopkeeper! Please do inform the police if there have been any thefts as this will all help support their investigations. The enquiry office has now closed in Wadebridge although the station will remain open. Robin Moorcroft is still in Bodmin and unsure whether he will be back and when. Darren said that although our replacement Sergeant is doing a god job, we certainly don't want any less police than we've got now. There is a meeting in Bodmin police hub at 6pm on the 26th April to discuss local policing. Robin encourages our town councillors and interested people to go and kick up storm!

Activities committee: We need to set a date for the prize bingo! Sarah from The Bridge on Wool, informed us that any time in the summer will bring few chamber participants. She advised that autumn would be a more suitable time. Although bingo in the Town Hall might not seem like the liveliest way to spend an evening, it does bring in a lot of funds and it's always a great fun. Date will be advised soon.

Sarah Prosser said that Padstow's calendar generated £3,000 for their Chamber's Christmas lights. It works by businesses each sponsoring a page for £200, which is sold to the public. Darren and Dominic were very interested in this idea and would like to look into a Wadebridge version. Steve

Knighthley mentioned the events committee that the Town Council has put together, has made an events calendar with all the goings on in Wadebridge and this could be combined into this calendar. Sarah will investigate more and report back to the Chamber.

Carnival: Darren enjoyed the carnival queen choosing. He pleaded the chamber to support the carnival organisers – it's a thoroughly enjoyed family event. He'll encourage everyone and anyone to put something together for it - you can help however you can, e.g. by giving a small prize / entering a float / collecting money. At the very least, it would be bad press for Wadebridge if it goes. Just to remind all of the businesses that you do not need to have special insurance to enter as the Committee now cover this. All you need is a vehicle with a valid MOT and insurance on it.

Padstow Area Tourism Information. PATA is a combination of the Tourism office and the Chamber of Commerce, which has been incredibly proactive in various marketing techniques to support trade in Padstow, which have caught Darren and Dominic's attention. We passed around a fantastic booklet PATA produced, which contains not only contains information about Padstow and the surrounding areas, but has a multitude of vouchers from local businesses with 2 for 1 details, money off deals etc. It has many important attractions for the area and brief overviews of the town, Wadebridge included. If Wadebridge businesses want to advertise in it you can by contacting Dominic to arrange. They email over 10,000 people who have registered on the lists telling them that the book is available and will post one to potential visitors.

We discussed producing this for Wadebridge and finding the most cost effective way to do this. Dominic suggested for now to use the Wadebridge Chamber's website as the most efficient, low maintenance way of producing it, which can be changed and updated as and when needed. Businesses could pay a small fee to the Chamber and could upload offers onto the site and people print them out. Similar to some of the discount voucher websites.

Darren and Dominic are also keen to work more closely with PATA and by linking websites and look at doing some joint national advertising in papers etc for this whole area. This could combine Port Isaac, Rock and Bodmin. Dominic has attended the last PATA meeting (thank you Rupert for the invite) and was impressed by their organisation of their planning of the Christmas Festival and other events. Their website gets 120,000 hits a year which they are looking to double this year. Having a link to our site will certainly prove beneficial.

Response request: *Are Chamber members happy for our chamber to work with Padstow's PATA in this way? Please get in contact using the details below.*

We're also looking to learn from Padstow's TIC. It is now a privately self funded business that receives income from it's activities and small grants from the Council etc. We are looking at hopefully expanding this into Wadebridge with an actual sub office, if we can find a suitable room etc. They do a lot of work on advertising and although they do pay a manager, it's a mix of volunteers and paid workers. Any ideas and suggestions welcome.

Any Other Business

Harriet Wild would really like see a '**skills and business exchange scheme**' in Wadebridge, such as the LETS scheme, which has been successful in other regions. (For example, you mow my lawn, I teach you guitar. You drive me to Truro and I'll fix your computer). This could progress into a land share scheme, where people with time and inclination could enjoy looking after other's gardens so both benefit. Shayne House has expressed an interested in hosting such a forum on www.wadebridgepeople.co.uk and Sarah Prosser editor of Local Eyes has also envisaged such a scheme for Wadebridge. Harriet proposed that the Big Lunch would be the perfect place to launch the scheme, as it sits hand in hand with the ethos of community team work. Ideas and suggestions

please to Harriet at Elixir or email her at: harry_wild@hotmail.co.uk

Rupert said that he would highly encourage a 106 funded Town Centre Manager to work in Wadebridge. It works well in Padstow and Falmouth etc and he believed Wadebridge could also reap these benefits. Darren and Dominic wholeheartedly agree, although the Town Council expressed concern on whether or not this would reduce the enormous volunteer work done by many people in the town. TCM's would only be paid for by the 106 money for a set period of time and once this was up the town has to pick up the reins once more. Rupert mentioned that once the value of a TCM is witnessed, such as demonstrated in Falmouth, businesses would want it to continue with the view that some funding would be looked at during the years that the new TCM is operating. WREN hopes that the money raised from creating a sustainable economy could go to projects like funding a TCM in the future, therefore their work could continue. Rupert suggested Falmouth's TCM comes and talks to the chamber, to which was largely agreed.

Next Meeting: 18th May at The Churchill Bars (upstairs) 5:45pm – All welcome

Contact details: Darren and Dominic are available on 01208 815411 or email: darrenrowe@thinkpositive.co.uk or dominic@bedrock.uk.com

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Treasurers Report
5. Crime Prevention
6. Royal Cornwall Show
7. Events Committee update
8. Any other business

Annual subscription payment – due now please.

Please accept the following cheque for £50 made payable to Wadebridge Chamber of Commerce

Business name: _____

Contact: _____

Email address: _____

Would you like to be included on the website: YES/NO

If so please provide us with the contact person and telephone number for Steve Coom of Razor Solutions to contact you

Name: _____

Tel: _____

**You do not have to attend the meetings to be a member. Thank you for your support.
The Chamber Committee.**