



Wadebridge and District chamber of Commerce

President: Mr D Rowe

Chairman: Mr D Walford

Vice Chairman: TBA

Hon. Secretary: Mr A M Gregan

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs A Jackson

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

Present: Darren Rowe and Dominic Walford (Riverside Financial Planning), Andrea Fitzpatrick (Ann's Cottage), Stephen Frankel (Carhart Mill), Ann Jackson (Treasurer), Nicky Ryland (The Tea Shop), Phil Chanter (Police), Grenville and Susan Stanbury (Kittows), Rupert Wilson (Seafood Restaurant), Fiona Jolley (NCA), Harriet Wild (Elixir), Philip Mutton (Trebur Estates)

Apologies: Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Julia Daw (Matchbox), Mike Walford (Folk Festival)

Matters Arising:

Vice Chairman position

Dominic asked for a member of the Chamber to come forward to stand for the position of Vice Chairman. Nobody present volunteered which is a big disappointment.

Dominic appealed for a Vice Chairperson to step forward for the next meeting in September. This could be anyone who wants to be actively involved in the town, although he felt it would be particularly appropriate to have someone with a retailing background to step forward. Dominic's chairmanship will run up to February depending on the support he gets from the Chamber.

Royal Cornwall: No update as yet.

Padstow Area Tourism Association: Rupert explained that PATA currently has approx. 150 members and runs to support the Tourist Information Centre in Padstow. Although they do receive small grants, the bulk of their finance is raised through PATA membership and the sale of the town guides. Rupert says that the Camel Trail links Padstow and Wadebridge, therefore it would make sense to see the two towns collaborating. Rupert also explained that following a meeting with Stephen Frankel, WREN are interested to work more closely with Padstow, which will also strengthen the Wadebridge / Padstow bond.

Dominic then proposed to team up and work closer with PATA as he believes there will be mutual benefits, for example, organising national press coverage for this area of North Cornwall. Philip Mutton seconded this proposal, and added that Wadebridge can't exist as a tourist destination solely by itself and would need the help of Padstow and surrounding towns to strengthen the tourism pull to North Cornwall. A vote was taken and it was all agreed to pursue this. Dominic will approach Tina Evans (PATA Chair) to come along and talk with us at the September meeting.

Visit Wadebridge.com: Dominic asked if anyone had followed through and looked at this website. He said that the Chamber is happy to support this website as they share the interests of promoting the town.

Supermarkets: Sainsbury's and Morrison's have both distributed leaflets around the town, which were available to view at the Chamber meeting. Nicky Ryland wrote to both new supermarkets on behalf of the Carnival Committee to ask for prize donations. She had no response from Sainsbury's. Morrison's advised Nicky to go to the nearest branch, where they gave the Carnival a bottle of wine, which unfortunately could not be given as a prize. Dominic did mention that she may not have spoken to the right person and recommended she speak to Steve Cudmore to access Morrison's. He also would contact Sainsbury's for her.

Broadband: There are currently 22 names on the petition to get superfast broadband to Wadebridge. Dominic spoke to a BT engineer who seemed to think it will be introduced to the town next year. Dominic will update everyone as soon as he hears any new information.

Treasurers Report: So far the Chamber consists of 33 paid up members. This includes brand new membership from a website search engine optimizer, Lloyds Commercial and Sharps Brewery. Sharps also added that they would like to get more involved with the Chamber in the future. Dominic is actively searching out for bigger businesses to recruit, as it will all help. Dom pleaded for membership fees to be paid soon, as there will be a lot more expenses coming up for Christmas preparation.

Any Other Business

Darren's Resignation: Dominic read out Darren's resignation letter to Grenville. It explained that although he enjoyed the position he held in the Chamber, increasing work commitments meant he couldn't give the time he needed to spend as Chairman. He also felt frustrated by the lack of attendance at meetings, with mostly non-retailers present. He asked Dominic to pass on his thanks to Ann, Grenville and the other active members of the Chamber for all the on-going support he's had throughout the 18 months.

Stephen formally thanked Darren for his work as Chairman. He sympathised with the lack of apathy from the business community, the vulnerability of the Chamber and was concerned that without the Chamber of Commerce, the town's leadership and direction would be left solely the Town Council. Grenville later added that Darren was a breath of fresh air to the Chamber. He seemed to sail through tough issues, which is quite an achievement. Darren then thanked Dominic for all his help as Vice Chairman.

Crime Prevention: Phil said that large changes within the force meant that many of the workforce are working later shifts and not as flexible to attend Chamber meetings. It doesn't help that the Chamber meeting conflicts with the new Police Cadets group. But it has been recognised that the police needs to work with the community, and they are looking to improve the work pattern. He reiterated that if anyone had any questions or need any help, call the helpline and Phil or someone else will be able to help.

Crime is up on last year by a very small amount. There is currently a problem with ATM machines at the moment as 'skimming' machines are being attached. This includes a microchip that can read card details, and a camera that picks up the PIN number. Two have been found on Barclays ATM in Wadebridge, and one in Tesco's Padstow. These machines are virtually undetectable as they're small and realistic, and unfortunately the technology is now very accessible.

False credit cards have been circulating around Wadebridge and have made successful transactions. He warned retailers to be aware of people looking to do cash advances and pay for phone top ups.

There has been a break in at Babes and Bikes – money stolen from both the till and a charity pot.

The CCTV system in the town needs to be updated and is currently not working properly. The Town Council have decided that it will not be replaced, despite having £10,000 set aside for it. The Police are very concerned about this, so much so that Inspector Carthew, The Community Safety Inspector, is writing to the Town Council expressing his concern about this.

Technology has moved on leaps and bounds since ours was installed. Phil has viewed Launceston's system, which is significantly more sophisticated than ours. It gives great detail and has night vision properties. The average quote for a fancy system is £34,000, with the service cost being £2,500 annually. There are funding sources available. Grenville asked if a new CCTV system could be introduced gradually, and Phil said it could be built up one camera at a time. Phil said there needs to be more consultation with the Town Council and the Chamber about the CCTV, and we should work together to make the decision whether to upgrade or not. Phil said it is there for personal safety, our business' safety and tourists' safety. Grenville said CCTV is only worthwhile if there are people to monitor the images. People need to be well trained to operate these cameras. Phil explained that the cameras are an excellent deterrent of crime in the first place, so they do serve a purpose. Also, there is a voluntary programme, where people can be trained up specifically for this task and get involved - once they'd passed security checks and agreed confidentiality terms etc. Phil offered to show anyone interested to see how it works around the cameras.

Dominic expressed great concern about this and said he wanted feedback from the business community to find out what they think about this upgrade. Is it necessary? Please e-mail through and let us know.

Events Committee: Yet to be formalised within the Chamber itself. Nicky asked if the Chamber was aware of the What's on Wadebridge committee, that meets to discuss events in the area. It was agreed that Nicky and Harriet would report back to the chamber any news from this committee, as they both already attend.

Carnival: Final plea - please get in touch and help out on the day. It's a great atmosphere so please get involved and help with marshalling and collecting. Some of the money goes into local charities e.g. Wadebridge Toy Library.

Nicky explained that the committee had a difficult few weeks arranging the carnival after party. They usually rent the Town Hall and have a family orientated knees up in there, with live music, a bar and prize-giving. This year they were approached by a local music studio and asked if they wanted to pass on the responsibility of organising this bash. Heavy organising made this offer very attractive, so they agreed to let the studios run this party instead. However, the committee were dismayed to find that the live music arranged did not fit in with their idea of family fun, and the evening had taken a different turn. So the committee decided to have a party in the park - on Jubilee Field instead. Camels Rugby Club very kindly waived the fee of putting up a marquee for this community event, and there will be a bar. The committee organised for a samba band to play with dancers and The Fandangos along with a charity auction, a raffle and prize giving. After an unfortunate delay, the Town Council agreed to let this party go ahead, as long as the party finished by 11pm at the latest, and some residents receive a letter in advance. Dominic thanked Nicky for her tenacity and community spirit.

Any other business

Independence Day: Darren was impressed with a party held in Somerset on July 4th that celebrated the fact that 80% of their shops were independent. They received fantastic press and it was a great community event. Darren said he'd love to have a similar party in the town centre, starting next year. He suggested this event could be on a Sunday, which could persuade retailers to be open.

Dominic fully supported this idea. Please e-mail in and let us know what you think about this? It would be great to get a retailers point of view about having this party.

Big Lunch: Harriet said she thought the leaflets delivered aiming to encourage people to join the Chamber of Commerce were slightly misleading. The leaflet said that by joining the chamber, your subs would go towards many events which included the Wadebridge Big Lunch. Harriet thought that although she was aware the Chamber were very supportive of this event, it has only ever been funded

by donations given on the day by Chamber Members, and didn't feel it would make a difference to the event whether she belonged to the Chamber or not. Dominic said that people could see the value of being a member of the Chamber with events such as these, which are organised by Chamber members and that the Chamber could be more financially involved in the future as the membership increases.

Sundays: Andrea Fitzpatrick said that Ann's Cottage is always open on a Sunday and wished that other businesses would do the same – especially in the summer months. She said there aren't many places for tourists to go in Wadebridge on a Sunday – especially if they want to sit down and have a cup of tea. Darren has spoken to businesses that open on Sundays, and they said it can be a successful day for them if not more successful than Saturdays. Dominic said that the Chamber can only request businesses open. Dominic said that it would take a few years or some very good marketing to let the campsites, businesses and other towns in the county know that Wadebridge is open for business on Sunday's. Long term he felt that the town would need to be open more to make use of the growing tourists coming to the town.

He reiterated that if the future Vice Chairman had retail experience, they could engage with the retail community.

Christmas: Daren proposed to change the second night of late night opening which he had been discussing with some of the local businesses, the Town Mayor and some Councillors. They would like to see a weekend of festivities instead of two separate nights. The Friday night could be the same – with Santa's Grotto and fireworks. Saturday could host a craft fair, a tombola in the Town Hall and the grotto again, along with live music from a band such as the Shipwrecks or a choir. Dominic added that a carousel on the piazza would be great, and Stephen suggested live music around town. The celebrations could finish with a Cornish market on Sunday, and a Santa run in the town. Darren said that we've got nothing to lose by trying it this way, and if we don't like it we could go back to two separate nights again next year.

Rupert Wilson said that the Christmas weekend in Padstow has really gathered momentum, and proves to be very successful for the town. There is a lot more culinary influence there, which differs from Wadebridge, but the events would be quite similar. Padstow's Christmas weekend tends to be the first weekend in December, but Wadebridge's would be the second. Dominic said the Christmas events are a great social affair – the more people we can get into the town makes it great for business. By having it on Saturday also would give me time for people to shop also.

Darren proposed the late night shopping evenings should be merged into one weekend. Grenville seconded this motion. All present were in favour and the motion carried.

Wadebridge Regatta: Dominic has had a meeting with Sharps who expressed an interest to sponsor a regatta in Wadebridge. This could include a marquee with a bar, while the event could run to and from Padstow. Dominic mentioned that he was aware that the canoe club have been toying with this idea for a while. Sharps are very keen to keep their business and promotions local, so want to get involved on a community level and back this event. Dominic said we would need to get a working committee together to organise this event for next year. There could be raft races, a candlelit procession and music involved similar to Fowey. Stephen suggested it could be the same time as the folk festival or the carnival. He asked whether there could be controlled camping in town - perhaps on Jubilee Field. He compared the atmosphere to Port Elliott's and said there would be a very agreeable family feel with people eating and drinking in town. It would attract greater publicity and awareness. Dominic said that private landowners in town could consider this, such as the rugby club.

Coronation Park Fete: The fete will be held on the 20th August this year. Any businesses or groups wanting to get involved, please contact the Town Clerk. It's been very well attended as it's a great family day with a lovely atmosphere.

Continental Market: The same market is asking to come Sunday 25th September. If anyone objects, please let their voices heard to Dominic. If not, he'll tell the organisers that there's no problems and to

go ahead.

WREN: Stephen explained that this community group is on target for 2mW this financial year. This means that WREN will be on track for the goal of 30% of Wadebridge's energy to come from renewable sources by 2015. He said the group had a great meeting with MEP Sir Graham Watson – the chairman of the Climate Parliament. Sir Watson will liaise with Chris Hulme to offer support to the group and was generally very encouraging. Stephen implored anyone who would like to know more about renewable energy to attend a conference in the Gaia Energy Centre in Delabole. This conference is held over two days on the 28th and 29th July. WREN will be there, and Stephen will deliver a speech amongst other guest speakers.

Minute Taker: The Chamber is currently looking for someone to step forward to take minutes. This is a paid position. Please contact Dominic if this could be you.

Next Meeting: 21st September at The Churchill Bars (upstairs) 5:45pm – All are welcome.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Treasurers Report
5. Vice Chairman election
6. Crime Prevention
7. PATA and the Chamber
8. Events Committee update
9. 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. Your financial contribution will aid the progress and development of the town and ultimately your business

Thank you for your support.

The Chamber Committee.