

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 September Monthly Meeting of the Wadebridge and District Chamber of Commerce which took place on Wednesday 20th October at The Churchill Bars, Wadebridge.

Present: Stephen Frankell (Carhart Mill), Dominic Walford (Riverside Financial Advice Centre and Sticky Fingers Nursery), Darren Rowe (Riverside Financial Advice Centre), Helen Lentern (D&C Police), Yvonne Robinson (Heat Store), Graham Masters (Bricknells), Ann Jackson (treasurer), Zoe Richardson & Tara Harris (Fusion), Nigel Flanagan (Ralph & Co), Grenville Stanbury (Kittows), Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Eric Gill (Town Council & Town Band), Harriet Wild (Elixir).

Apologies: Susan Stanbury (Kittows), Sarah Townsend (Relish), Michelle Haseldine (The Blind Co), Jason & Randi Henderson (Elixir), Mike Walford (Folk Festival), Fiona Jolley (NCA).

Matters Arising:

Minute Taker: Helen Ostle will be moving out of the area and therefore will be no longer able to take the minutes for the meetings. Helen has done a fantastic job and her enthusiasm will be missed. This now means that we need a new minute taker. This involves taking the minutes at the meetings and typing them out (max 3 hours including the meeting). It is a paid position!. If you are interested please let us know.

Supermarkets: Darren said that as we are aware the decision on the planning applications has been deferred, and the GVA Grimley consultation paper is available to read. It was suggested that the report be added to the minutes for the members to read. The report states that the impact of a new supermarket could be 20 -30% less trade in the town centre, and a fall of £2.6 million pounds per annum. Stephen F stated that members should be encouraged to contact Cornwall Council and state their views and concerns, as this report should make them aware of the potential impact to the town centre. Grenville S disagreed with the stated figures. Stephen F said that we should not underestimate the threat from the proposed Tesco's development as this could become a regional out of town shopping centre which will effect the town more than is estimated in the report. Grenville stated that some would argue that Tesco's has helped Wadebridge remain a vibrant town. Eric Gill mentioned his concern around drainage from the Saunsburies proposed site, and stated that Morrisions would be the best offering for the town. Eric also stated that he felt we should not be talking to the developers about the potential 106 monies until we know who wins the planning race. Darren stated that the view was taken by the Chamber to discuss potential monies with the developers at an early stage as it would take a great deal of time for all of the towns separate groups to discuss a "wish List". Darren and Dominic also stated that when Somerfield first built, they were not approached for 106 monies and maybe an opportunity was lost. Dominic said that if planning were granted we want as much funding as possible to improve the town, regardless of the public perception of "blood money". Darren read out some comments from the "Wadebridge people" web-site that suggested the Chamber members did not have the interests of the town's people at heart, and that the chamber were only interested in profit margins. Darren stated that he had also

received a letter suggesting that the chamber were taking money from the supermarkets to give them planning permission. Darren and Dominic discussed the fact that it the people of Wadebridge would possibly welcome a new supermarket, and that it could be viewed that the chamber are going against this, however, it is not up to the chamber who gets the eventual permission to build. It is also the chamber view that all of our efforts are to keep the town busy and vibrant and that competition can be a good thing, but we must be mindful of the impact to the town. Grenville also mentioned an idea about making a Piazza in front of the COOP building as a focal point, or meeting place. It was generally thought to be a great idea.

Camel trail: The possible re-direction of the Camel trail seems to be put on hold, due to the fact that English Heritage are concerned about intended works on the bridge.

W.R.E.N: Stephen f gave us an update on the WREN project. The steering group has been formed with members from many of the towns groups, and Dan Rogerson is keen to join. WREN have a meeting planned with council officers early in the new year. We are now looking at financing and Dominic had a very useful meeting with a financing expert and has put him in contact with Stephen F.

LOGO: The Chamber has had a designer offer their services and has put together a few ideas for the new Chamber Logo. The responses so far suggest that the “Bridge” or the “Swan” design is most suited. But the chamber welcomes suggestions. It was mentioned that this has had more of a response from the chamber members than any other questionnaire!

Crime Prevention:

Helen informed us that there was not much to report.

Helen did mention that a project involving Police Cadets for 13 – 16 year olds will be starting soon. They will learn basic first aid, marching, how to deal with missing persons, and learn team building.

Tara (Fusion) mentioned that Padstow have a very effective Shop Watch scheme, were members have a list and are instructed to phone the next shop on the list. The members present felt that this would be a no cost option and was well received.

Christmas:

The dates for putting the towns lights up (and down), have been confirmed as Sunday the 5th Dec, and down on Sunday the 9th Jan. Darren mentioned that it will be great to have some further volunteers this year, as it is the same hardy souls that turn up for duty each year. He mentioned that although it is usually raining, sleeting, windy and cold, it is an enjoyable experience and a great deal of laughs are had! Stefan (Davey Electrical) has suggested to the Chamber that it will be a good idea to have two shifts of volunteers each day, as we generally have many more in the morning and by lunch-time we are short on numbers. Therefore, there will be two shifts available, the first one starting at 8 am (by the town hall) and the second starting at noon. Generally the afternoon shift will be the shorter one. We really do need help with this and the chamber will be grateful volunteers could let us know ASAP if they can help and what shift they would like. Also, in previous years we have been well looked after by the local businesses with offers of breakfast, bacon rolls, coffee etc, although one establishment did charge us for a few coffees last year!, so if you do see us shivering outside your business, don' be shy!.

For the late night shopping events it was discussed when the fireworks should be lit. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the fireworks should be at 8.30, as last year it kept the people in the town for longer and the atmosphere was fantastic. Pirate FM have confirmed for the first night along with the Shipwrecks, St Minver Town band, Wadebridge Town band, and the grotto will be in the town hall. The Christmas tombola which was very successful last year will also be in the town hall, and please could we ask for donations of prizes. Dominic is to hold a Christmas committee meeting to discuss the final details. If any business has any further idea please e-mail them in to Darren or Dominic.

Treasurer Report:

The accounts show that we have 70 paid up members, but that funds are needed to help with the Christmas events.

We would love more members to help fund our projects like Christmas late night shopping and other activities. You don't have to attend the meetings to support the town!

AOB:

Darren stated that he was in receipt of many letters saying how great Wadebridge is as a town and that the street entertainment is most welcome.

We have also had a donation from residents of Bridge View who held a Harvest T-party in the Shuttleworth hall. Darren said these sorts of donations are very welcome and it was very well received.

Darren mentioned that he had been invited to attend a meeting in Camelford recently that had been put together by Cornwall Council and the traders of Camelford. The meeting was mainly about how Camelford wanted to have a more "joined up" town. Darren was invited to talk to the traders and Camelford Town Councillors about the work that Wadebridge Chamber of commerce does to keep the town vibrant and busy. The Camelford traders were very impressed and encouraged by what they had been reading about our Chamber. The Camelford Chamber only meet around once a year and have had no real direction. They have now called a meeting to plan a way forward. Darren also discussed with them how Wadebridge is starting to work together with it's various groups.

Eric Gill (Town Council) mentioned that rates in Wadebridge rose 18% last year, and suggested that there should be no fireworks on New Year's Eve as a cost cutting measure. This was disagreed with all members present as the fireworks on New Year's Eve are well known and an asset to the town. Eric also wanted to ask members if anyone had a photograph showing a road sign of Harbour Road.

Harriet Wild mentioned that on the 10th November at 6.30 in the Da Boes restaurant there will be a "Community Building Workshop". It is a workshop that helps communities work together.

Darren and Dominic have been asked to judge the "Pink Windows" and wanted to thank the businesses of the town for their support. There are many entries and the windows look fantastic.

Dominic mentioned about the web-site and that it was up to the businesses to contact the web designer to have their details loaded onto the site.

There was then a discussion about holding fêtes, and concerts on the playing fields or the land at Jubilee Field. Eric Gill said that there would be no problems with using this land. This was discussed with various ideas for open air concerts etc, and it was agreed that we would discuss this area further at another meeting. Rachel Daniels and other members feel that this would be a great

idea for the summer.

Next meeting: 17th November at the Churchill Bars (upstairs) 5.45.

Things to do:

Let Darren or Dominic know if you can help with any of the Christmas events (especially the lights!)

Prizes needed for the Tombola

Donations needed for the Chamber events.

Marshall's needed for the late night shopping.

Let us know if you'd like to get involved in any way.

Agenda for next meeting

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

Matters Arising

Crime Prevention

Activities Committee Update

Treasurers Report

AOB

Date of Next Meeting