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Minutes of Meeting
 Monday 1st March 2010
 Old Council Chamber, Town Hall, Beeston

Attendees			
Stephanie Wilkinson	Broxtowe Borough Council	Chris Timson	Touchlight Systems
Dan Walker	CP Walker	Emma Forbes	Boots the Chemist
Janet Clifford	Broadgate Laundry Services	Barbara Selwood	Beeston Civic Society
Peter Robinson	Beeston Civic Society	Sue Maddox	Beeston Market
Sheila Eden	Beeston Express		
Apologies			
Matt Robinson	Beeston BID Manager	June Cobley	Scents of Harmony
Brian Taylor	Broxtowe Borough Council		

1. Welcome, apologies and actions from the last meeting.

CT opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. A quick round the room introduction took place.

Actions from the last meeting:

- SW to check that High Road works are now complete

Works are complete. Additional item to be discussed on the agenda around bird boxes

- CT to follow up Richard Jackson

This is not yet complete

- SW to investigate giving monthly footfall figures to the Beeston Express

This has been done and figures now appear in Beeston Express

- BT to speak to finance about business rates issues

This has been resolved

- SW to arrange speakers for future meetings

SW has spoken to Henry Boot. They feel that it is not the right time to come and discuss things as there isn't much to say at the moment. It was suggested that they come to the July meeting as hopefully a planning application will have gone in by then. Tesco have also agreed to come to a meeting if we can let them know when we would like them to. This prompted a discussion on the delay of works. It is thought that a Highways issue is delaying construction.

- SW to report busker problem and see if any action can be taken

This was fed back to the relevant head of service but unfortunately there is nothing a borough council that we can do unless a by-law is created. It was felt by the group that they do add something to the street scene and maybe encouraging them would help bring out a better quality of busker

2. Presentation by Fairtrade Beeston on Fairtrade Fortnight and how businesses can get involved.

SW introduced Becky Russell from the Fairtrade Beeston Group. Unfortunately Clare Littleford, chair of the group was unable to attend so SW took her place. The main points of the presentation were:

- Beeston was awarded Fairtrade Town Status in September 2009
- High profile events include Beeston Goes Bananas in March (winner of Fairtrade Foundation award) and Launch event in October which saw the flag raising the square.
- Fairtrade Beeston is made up of volunteers from the local community. They now have their own bank account and are a fully constituted group. Their intention is to raise the profile of the town both internally and externally.
- This year one of the main focuses will be to encourage businesses to both use and sell Fairtrade products. Currently Sainsburys, the Co-operative, Iguazu and Out of this World are key players in the town.
- Fairtrade Fortnight – 22nd February – 7th March. The theme of this year is “swap shop”. Group are putting on a “Mad Hatters tea party” on Saturday 6th March at Chilwell Road Methodist Church. This will also include the launch of a window sticker competition where all children up to year 6 can create a design. The winner will get to see the sticker produced. This will be then used in the town to promote Fairtrade.
- If any business wants to know how they can get involved, please speak to SW

3. Feedback on Beeston BID open meeting

As MR was unable to attend the meeting, SW asked the group what they thought about the event. Around 50-60 people turned out and of those that filled in the evaluation form at the end, nobody said that they would vote against it.

The group felt that although the meeting was a success, we now have to convince those that didn't attend. The BID can't get complacent and needs to carry on its publicity campaign. PR commented that he was in Grimsby and somebody asked him about the Beeston BID so it is clear that news is travelling. He also commented that it is almost the last chance saloon for Beeston and that it is a matter of survival. DN also made the point that timing of the vote is crucial as people will get fed up of voting for things.

SM asked when the vote was taking place and if it was a yes vote, how quickly would things start moving. It was thought that the voting will take place in June and if voted in things will get moving straight away. Things like the touch screens may take a few weeks but the website, publicity etc could begin straight away. It was also emphasised that the touch screens need to promote Beeston as a whole not just the businesses. EM has not yet spoken to MR about the BID as she is relatively new. SW to sort out contact details for her.

Action

4. Footfall figures for February

Despite the cold weather, on average the figures for February are better than last year.

Date	2010	2009
Week 5	93710	100174
Week 6	94908	79035
Week 7	95548	96767
Week 8	90722	91473
Average	93722	91862

5. Bird Boxes on the High Road

Following the recent High Road Improvements, there were concerns over tree removal and loss of habitat for birds. As a result, Broxtowe Borough Council has been working with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to look at locating nest boxes. These boxes will be located on the trees but it has also felt that having them on the building would help. A letter has been sent to all businesses on the pedestrianised area of the High Road asking if they would house a nest box.

The group did not seem in favour of this as it is more than likely to cause a droppings problem. Many of the shops already have measure in place to discourage pigeons. It was also asked what maintenance would be put in place for the street furniture below the trees as there is bound to be a problem here too. It was suggested that encouraging them to Dovecote lane or Broadgate Park would be a better option.

SW to feed this back.

Action

6. Any other business

Official opening of Royal Oak – Everyone seems positive about this and that it was good to see that the evening economy is expanding. DW commented that it is very isolated and it would be good if Stoney Street could be opened up to create a better flow. This sparked up a conversation regarding the Town Centre Masterplan and what had happened to the document. There was a consultation period a few years ago and then things seem to have gone quiet and nothing more has been said about it. SW to speak to Planning Department regarding this.

Action

7. Date of next meeting

Monday 12th April
6.15pm
Beeston Town Hall

Actions

- SW to sort out contact details for Matt Robinson
- SW to feed back comments regarding Bird Boxes
- SW to speak to Planning Department regarding Town Centre Masterplan