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Minutes of Meeting
Monday 2nd November 2009
New Council Chamber, Town Hall, Beeston

Attendees			
Stephanie Wilkinson	Broxtowe Borough Council	Chris Timson	Touchlight Systems
Ros Thompson	Clean N steam	Mark Holland	Metro
Lynda Lally	Broxtowe Borough Council	Sheila Eden	Beeston Express
June Cobley	Scents of Harmony	Brian Taylor	Broxtowe Borough Council
Peter Robinson	Beeston Civic Society	Joan Cameron	Beeston Civic Society
David Gibson	Beeston Snooker Centre	Sue Maddex	Beeston Market
Ally Allen	Artworks		
Apologies			
Matt Robinson	Beeston BID Manager	Julie Cameron	Cameron House
Barbara Selwood	Beeston Civic Society	Pat Lally	Broxtowe Borough Council

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

CT opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. As there were a few new faces, a round the room introduction was done.

Actions from the last meeting to be discussed in the agenda items.

2. Outcome of the Tram meeting 9th October

AA commented that there were a lot of people at the meeting. Cllrs Steve Carr, Richard Jackson and MP Nick Palmer were in attendance to answer questions. Cllr Jackson has promised that he will negotiate compensation.

As a result of the meeting, a steering group has been set up consisting of various businesses along Chilwell Road. The group is yet to hear anything from Cllr Jackson on the matter. There has also been a petition started and can be found in various shops along Chilwell Road.

PR asked about the original package that was given to business along phase 1. This was funded by the city.

AA also commented that the representation from the City Council was good and they were able to give good clear answers but were unable to give specifics regarding the programme of works.

The group agreed that as all of the business community are going to be affected in some way, it is vital that the campaign continues.

3. High Road Improvements work update

SW updated the group that the general paving works were to be completed by the end of October. There is then going to be a period of snagging over the next few weeks and tree planting will take place around the 16th November.

In regards to the BBF's concerns over cleanliness of the area, SW was informed that the areas that were still being worked on would be cleaned and that the street maintenance team would ensure the rest of the paving would be kept clean.

SW, MR and CT will be meeting with a Highways inspector on 3rd November to discuss various issues relating to the highway including A boards/street clutter.

The general feel from the group was that the general workmanship has been very poor. The health and safety practices have been unacceptable and that the quality of the works is questionable. It was also noted that the seat outside of Iceland is uneven and that they have made a shabby job on putting in the street furniture and the round blocks of concrete spoil the look. It was also questioned whether we should be paying for this work as it doesn't look to an acceptable standard. SW took note of all the comments and will feed back to relevant persons. **Action**

Footfall Counts-Continue to be on the up;

W/c 5 th October	105430
W/c 12 th October	92242
W/c 19 th October	111335
W/c 26 th October	110824

Broxtowe Borough Council have now had the footfall counter for over 12 months and year on year figures suggest that footfall has increased this October by around 10,000 per week.

4. BIDS update

Unfortunately Matt was unable to attend the meeting at short notice. As a result, SW fed back the following points;

Parking petition (To ask for a 50% discount for businesses and their staff to be in line with what the Council are offering their staff) has received over 300 signatures and has now been given to the Council.

MH asked why Matt had been involved with this particular issue. CT replied by saying that it was seen as good thing for the BID to get involved with as it was a good example of what a BID could potentially achieve. SW also commented that it wouldn't be something that she would be able to get involved in so if Matt hadn't had taken it on; it would have been reliant on the businesses to organise.

A discussion then took place over the impact of parking charges on businesses. It was felt that a lot of service/office businesses will consider moving as they have less reason to be in the town centre than retail businesses. There has recently been an article in the national newspapers about Councils choosing to drop their charges as there had been a major drop in sales. It was felt that Broxtowe is taking a backward step.

It was also noted that the first draft of the businesses plan will be ready for comment in the New Year.

5. Events update

Spooktacular Funday – This went really well and lots of people attended throughout the event. Thanks to Homemade bakery for donating a cake for the fancy dress parade.

Fairtrade Launch – Beeston has now been declared a Fairtrade Town and to celebrate the Fairtrade Beeston group organised a celebration event. After speeches, flag raising and a performance from the gospel choir, around 200 people went along to the town hall to find out more about Fairtrade and sample some goodies including a Fairtrade chocolate fountain.

Arts and Craft Fair - 12-14th November in the Square

Christmas – Lights switch on will take place on Saturday 28th November. Judging of Window display competition will take place on Thursday 26th at 1pm and winners will be announced at the switch on event.

6. Meeting dates for 2010

It was noted at the last meeting that the day that the forum falls on should be looked into. After a discussion and due to other people's commitments it was decided that it stays on the first Monday of every month. Therefore the first meeting in January will be on Monday 4th.

7. Any other business

Business survey results – SW still working on this but should be ready ASAP.

Letter to Richard Jackson – CT to organise this

Action

Inviting NET to BBF meeting – SW to arrange this for February

Action

Fairtrade Town status – LL commented that this is only the start and although the Fairtrade group have engaged with some businesses, it is hoping to engage with more over the next few months.

Empty Shops-PR commented that there are quite a few vacant shops appearing at the moment and could something be done about this? SW replied that the Council have a meeting with Henry Boot this month to discuss the empty units that they have down the precinct. PR also suggested that Melton Mowbray is a good example of what can be done.

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 4th January, 6.15pm, Town Hall

Actions

- SW to feed back comments regarding High Road Improvements
- CT to organise a letter to Richard Jackson
- SW to arrange for NET to come to the February meeting