



**BEESTON  
BUSINESS FORUM**

**Minutes of Meeting**  
Monday 30th July, 6.15pm  
Caffe Nero, High Road, Beeston

**Attendees**

Sue Maddox	Beeston Market	Chris Timson	Touchlight systems
Pam Phillips	Broadgate Laundry	Janet Clifford	Broadgate Laundry
Stephanie Wilkinson	Broxtowe Borough Council	Kath Brown	Charlie Foggs
Elizabeth Campbell	Broxtowe Borough council	Paul Stewart	Argos
Barbara Selwood	Beeston Civic Society	Samantha Mann	Pay Role to you
Peter Robinson	Beeston Civic Society	Sheila Eden	Beeston Express
Lynda Lally	Councillor Beeston Central	Pat Lally	Councillor Beeston Central

**Apologies**

Sue/Alan Harvey	Talkback studios	Saeed Ahmed	Bubble IT
Rob/Sue	Post Office	Joyce Brown	Beeston civic society

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

CT welcomed everybody to the new venue. General consensus was that the venue was better and much more relaxed.

Actions from last meeting:

1. Paul Syson to be contacted regarding feeding pigeons on Broadgate Park.
2. CT and SW to contact people who haven't turned up to the meeting  
This was done when flyers for the meeting were distributed. Most businesses were informed about the meeting and many seemed really keen but unfortunately there are still no new faces

**2. Open meeting – Where next?**

Members were given a copy of proposed actions prepared by Chris Hollins and also a draft version of the next action plan.

CT asked the group for suggestions of the things that should be concentrated on.

Key themes that came out were as follows:

**Floral displays** – Introduction of a hanging basket scheme. Has been seen as problematic in the past due to apathy amongst businesses but there is nothing to suggest that this cannot be tried again. From previous schemes it is thought that the baskets would cost around £50 per year

Planters – Felt that they need an innovative approach. It was also suggested that more information about sponsorship of planters is made available to businesses. Trees have also been sponsored in the past although this has only tended to be at Christmas.

CT suggested that we created an action group to look into the scheme

**Christmas** – Window display competition. This is thought to be well received and something that should be continued this year. Could also use this as a way of dressing up empty units. Could get school children to design these.

Categories for both multiples and Independents. Voting could be done through Beeston Express. Flyers/stickers could be put in the windows encouraging people to vote

SW and EC to contact CP Walker to discuss this

**Action 1**

Treasure hunt type competition – suggestions include a 12 days of Christmas competition. Shops perhaps to contribute to a prize fund.

Christmas lights – SW explained to the group that she has a potential pot of money to improve Xmas lights. It is thought that the tree lights are particularly good but the post ones could do with replacing. The tree is also seen by businesses as a letdown.

It was suggested that a meeting with Clare Janes would be beneficial before the next meeting. SW to arrange this

## **Action 2**

**Town centre maps** – CT felt that this is an excellent way of promoting both Beeston and Businesses. Forum needs to look at how much this cost last time and if there is any way that we can make this self-funding.

EC informed the group that the Council had just surveyed the town centre and had an up to date record of current businesses

It is also felt that these maps can be enlarged and placed in empty display boards to brighten them up.

PR pointed out that a key aspect of getting people into a town is information. Maps like these should be strategically placed at railway stations and at hotels to encourage people to come into the town.

The Action Groups are as follows:

- Hanging basket Action Group – Samantha Mann, Elizabeth Campbell
- Christmas Action Team – Stephanie Wilkinson, Sheila Eden, Chris Timpson, Lynda and Pat Lally
- Town Centre Map Action Group – Chris Timson

### **3. Any other business**

Broadgate Park – LL commented that there appears to be a lack of entertainment being put on the park since it has been completed. Could it be used in conjunction with other events or even a site to house future events?

EC informed the group that the official opening of the Artwork will be held Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August from 10am. It was felt by the group that the art is smaller than anticipated and that the event has not been well promoted. There are many events that are put on in the town but it is felt that generally it is let down by the lack of promotion

LL informed the group that the coating on the stone at Broadgate is going to be taken off and replaced by another graffiti proof method.

Master Plan-Consultation period begins at the end of the week until the end of September. It was felt by the group that this should be put on the agenda for the next meeting

Beeston Carnival – LL commented that the poor weather did spoil the day. It is hoped that next year the businesses can be more involved and are looking for financial contributions to help fund the event as it is currently running on a very low budget.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Venue to be confirmed

### **Actions**

1. SW and EC to contact CP Walker to discuss possibility of decorating vacant shop windows
2. SW to arrange a meeting with Clare Janes regarding Christmas events