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Minutes of Meeting
 Monday 7th September 2009
 Old Council Chamber, Town Hall, Beeston

Attendees			
Stephanie Wilkinson	Broxtowe Borough Council	Chris Timson	Touchlight Systems
Lou West	Homemade Bakery	Matt Robinson	Beeston BID Manager
Mark Holland	Metro	David Gibson	Beeston Snooker Hall
Barbara Selwood	Beeston Civic Society	Janet Clifford	Broadgate Laundry Services
Malcolm Davidson	Singer Sewing Centre	Charlie Fogg	Charlie Foggs
Sue Maddex	Beeston Market	Pat Lally	Broxtowe Borough Council
June Cobley	Scents of Harmony	Lynda Lally	Broxtowe Borough Council
Peter Robinson	Beeston Civic Society	Sue	Rocky Riders
Lee Todd	East Midlands Rickshaw		
Apologies			
Julie Cameron	Cameron House	Caroline Jackson	Pink and Lilly

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. High Road Improvement works update

SW informed the group that since the last meeting in July, works had progressed significantly. This means that the completion date of October still stands.

Since the last meeting, the Valuation Office has been contacted and is currently putting a case together about potential rate reduction for the affected businesses. A representative has been round and spoken to several businesses but it seems that the majority say that although takings have gone down, it can't be specifically pin pointed to the works. They are keen to speak to any business that feels they have been affected so SW advised the group to speak to her if that is the case.

It seems that over the last few weeks footfall has began to increase now that the works are less intense. The figures for August are as follows:

W/c 3 rd August	68884
W/c 10 th August	62384
W/c 17 th August	61672
W/c 24 th August	111280
W/c 31 st August	95712

3 BIDs update

MR updated the group that surveys had gone out to all businesses and that Street meetings will be taking place over the next few weeks. This will be an opportunity for all businesses to have a say and find more out about the BID and what it could do for the town. Following these meetings, MR and the steering group will devise a business plan. From the survey responses, it seems that one of the main priorities for businesses is marketing and promotion of the town.

Concerns we raised and discussions were held over the following points:

Larger businesses having a bigger influence – Both MR and CT explained that the vote would be based on both number of votes and rateable value. Sainsburys only get one vote the same as the smaller independent businesses. This has to be 51% or higher on both counts for it to be voted in.

The money that businesses will be expected to contribute – 80% of businesses will probably be paying £250 per year. This is not yet definite but once this has been decided, it will not fluctuate each year. It is also unlikely that this will be any less as there needs to be a high enough amount in the pot to make a visible difference. The budget will be set out in the business plan and all projects will have to fit within this.

Why aren't the Council doing this – The BID will not take over anything that the Council have to provide but should compliment it. The Council do not have the funds to do everything that businesses would like to see. However the Council will have to pay the levy like everyone else on all buildings in the area including car parks and public toilets. They have also offered to give a financial contribution each year for the 5 years that the BID will be running.

MR explained that in the current economic climate and with the Tram and the Square development happening in the not so distant future, it is vital that businesses work together. CT also commented that as a business, he feels that the BID is a good thing for the town. Although the economic climate is not the same as it was 2 years ago when the process began, if we would have started it now then the funding would not have been in place to get to this stage and the Council would not have been able to financially back it in the way that they have been able to. The forum has supported this from day one and in order for the business community to have a voice; this is the only way forward.

MR is hoping to put a small project together in the run up to Christmas (probably in the form of a promotion) to show how a BID can help the help the town.

4. Events update

Arts and Craft Fair – Event was successful in July. It was on the same weekend as the homecoming parade which made the town very busy. Another one is planned for 25th-26th of September and again 12-14th November.

Halloween event – Planning the event again this year on Friday 30th October from 11am-2pm. This will include stilt walkers, face painting, arts and crafts, circus skills and a fancy dress parade. LW offered to donate a cake for a prize for the fancy dress competition.

Christmas – SW commented that it was the time of year that the forum forms a steering group for Christmas activities. If anyone is interested, could they contact SW. It was also

suggested that the BID and the Council work together on this. SW and MR to discuss this further.

Action

5. Fairtrade Beeston

Beeston has its own group that has been working hard to promote Fairtrade and to make Beeston a Fairtrade town. After meeting the criteria, Beeston has officially been awarded Fairtrade town status. A launch event is set to take place on Saturday 31st October. SW also informed the group that the group had also won an award for their Beeston Goes Bananas event back in March. Representatives from the group will be going to the Fairtrade Conference in London next month to collect the award.

6. Any other business

East Midlands Rickshaws – LL welcomed to the meeting Lee Todd from East Midlands Rickshaws. LT provided the Rickshaw for the Carnival Parade and proved very popular. They also currently operate in Derby City's Cathedral Quarter and in Nottingham. Money is made through advertising and rides are given to the public for free. They operate 5 days a week, 10am-4pm and feedback from the public has been positive. It is thought that this would be a welcome addition to Beeston.

LL and SW to investigate this further.

Action

Beeston Heritage open days – PR reminded the group that the heritage open days organised by the Civic Society will be taking place from Thursday 10th until Sunday 13th September. The Beeston Express has a pull out with details of all the events.

Morrisons – PL commented that Morrisons will no longer be going in the old Somerfield building and will be selling the lease. The taxi forum is also looking to relocate the taxi rank to Villa Street.

Tesco – Although planning permission has been approved, there are still negotiations going ahead regarding the purchase of land from the old Fire Station.

7. Date and venue for the next meeting

Monday 5th October

Venue TBC