

# WELSHPOOL BUSINESS FORUM

## MINUTES

Of a meeting held on **Monday 15th September 2014** at 7pm in the  
Council Chamber of the Town Hall

**Present were:**

Cllr S Kaye Chair, Cllr A Bowen, Cllr B McWhinnie.  
Heather and Mervyn Parkes Lamplite  
Heather Sherlock M and Co  
Simon Ebrey Monkey Puzzle  
Christine Holmes and A J Flintham Flaunt It  
T Harris Nibbles  
Fred Davies  
Val Edwards  
Robert Robinson Secretary.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from R Humphreys, K Derwas, Cllr E Bleivas, Cllr H Evans and Tony Brooks.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

**3. Matters from the last meeting**

**a) Contact to be made with Local Policing Team over both the anti - social behaviour incidents and the one way system management of accidents.**

The Town Clerk reported on the response from PCC. There is no single plan for accidents in any location, decisions are taken on a case by case basis.

The Town Clerk reported on some successes by the Police Team in apprehending some of those who have committed anti social behaviour activities.

**ii) Take forward regeneration plan.**

The regeneration plan will be covered under no 7 on the agenda.

**iii) PCC to be contacted to suggest a mobility scooter awareness scheme.**

The suggestion of scooter awareness courses has been suggested to PCC. No response has been received to the suggestion to date.

**iv) Pigeons in Hopkins Passage**

The idea of shooting pigeons is not an option. S Ebrey will seek a quote from a Pest Control Company. It was pointed out that the Town Council will not have funds to spend on private property. A quote for a bird of prey is too expensive at £325 per day.

**v) Puzzle Square**

The no dog fouling signs are in place and the overgrowth is being removed as time permits.

**4. The Sirolli Project - launch of Severn Valley Scheme**

The Town Clerk gave a brief update on progress with details of the facilitator and training.

**5. DPPO**

i) The Town Clerk reported on the DPPO application and its progress.

ii) The Town Clerk also informed the meeting of the new orders available to PCC and which will be the subject of discussion over the coming months.

**6. Christmas in Welshpool**

The plans for Christmas are progressing and the Town Clerk gave an outline of what is planned. The Christmas Tree outside the Royal Oak has been arranged. The switch on is to be one hour earlier at 6pm.

**7. Regeneration Scheme for Puzzle Square/Boot Street/Hall Street**

The Town Clerk gave an update on the grant aid and architects drawings for a scheme in the areas of Hall Street, Boot Street, Hopkins Passage and Puzzle Square.

**8. Tourist Information from January to June 2014**

The Town Clerk gave information on the Tourist Industry in the first half of the year and referred to the later part of the summer.

Up to the end of June tourism was slow, July was better and August very busy. Since the schools have returned the tourist numbers appear to have dropped off. The latest census figures were also made available.

The improved rail timetable due in 2015 will need marketing. The Town Clerk pointed out that Rhydian Mason, part of the team of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee along with Cllr M Williams, Cllr T Roberts and Robert Robinson will be very much involved in marketing of the new service.

The meeting asked the Town Clerk to try and arrange for Rhydian to visit the forum. Suggestions included a information board on the platform.

### **9. Election - Llanerchydol Ward**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting of the impending election for a vacant seat on the Town Council to be administered by PCC.

### **10. Town Centre Matters**

The introduction of a Lidl's Store to Welshpool was discussed.

The Councillors did not take part in the debate or discussion.

The Business Community asked the Secretary to write to the Planning Department at PCC as follows:

General support for the scheme.

Would prefer them to use old Co-op building.

Would bring people into town or keep people in town.

The store may draw from the Lidl's in Newtown.

May affect Morrison's as a store.

Position could affect peoples ability to shop with 30% with no car.

Creates more jobs which is a good thing.

Will not affect traffic congestion.

One boundary has an amount of canal frontage which needs to treated carefully.

Would be seeking some help with town centre scheme to aid brining people into the centre.

### **11. Shopping**

The following were noted:

A delicatessen is moving into the small shop in Broad Street.

McKays opticians has closed down.

SPAR is empty and not looking particularly good. The Town Clerk will speak to the SPAR owners about this.

CASTLES unit is to be occupied by Jonathan Partridge opticians.

### **12. Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 20th October 2014 at 7pm in the Town Hall Council Chamber.

### **13. Matters taken forward:**

The following matters are to be taken forward:

Regeneration Plan - Puzzle Square and other areas

Scooter awareness scheme

Letter to Planning Dept on Lidl's Proposal

Contact with SPAR over stage of building.

Invite Rhydian Mason to next meeting.