

WELSHPOOL PROJECTS LIMITED
BUSINESS FORUM
MINUTES
Of a meeting held on
Monday 16th February 2015 at 7pm
in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall Welshpool

Present were:

Robert Robinson Secretary (Chaired the meeting), Cllr A Bowen, A Crowe, Duncan & Carol Alexander (Alexander's), Heather Sherlock (M & Co) and Ros Jones (Celtic Company).

1. Apologies for absence

The meeting received apologies for absence from Cllr S Kaye (Chair), Cllr E Bleivas, Cllr H Evans, Christine Holmes & Ian Flintham (Flaunt It), Val Lewis and Freda Davis.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Actions taken since the last meeting

The Secretary reported on actions taken since the last meeting as follows:

Art Connection

An update was given on the meeting between Art Connection and the Town Clerk. No further news since that meeting.

PCC Budget Cuts

An update was given on the budget cuts coming forward affecting Welshpool.

Eisteddfod

This event is coming to Meifod in 2015. The Town Clerk is still awaiting details of a shop in town and for the bus service usually provided from the site to the town.

4. Canal Trips

An outline of the canal trips for 2015 was given including the Making Waves weekend on 4th and 5th July.

5. Cambrian Railways and Buses

The Town Clerk outlined the new rail service due to start on 18th May.

There is a new car park planned for the other side of the main line station to the existing one.

Some concern was expressed over the possible loss of the smaller bus services coming into Welshpool. The meeting would rather see buses to towns over the border reduced to keep trade in Wales.

6. Yellow Line Review

The meeting discussed the yellow line review. This item is to come up at the next meeting as a consultation. There was some concern over the proposals for the High Street.

7. Business update

Two current reports were presented to the meeting. The Welsh High Street vacancy figures have risen to around 14%. Welshpool stands currently at around 8%.

8. Puzzle Square Scheme

An update was given on the scheme. Planning consent is now nearing consent stage, the funding has been confirmed and estimates for the works are being sought.

9. Tourism

The Town Clerk outlined the tourism booklets planned for 2015 including a new Town Guide.

The tourism base for Mid Wales appears to be changing with less Seniors and more Families coming to the area.

10. Car Parking

A discussion took place around the car parking in Welshpool. Welshpool Town Council is seeking to take over some of the car parks and are in discussions with PCC over this. The traders would like to see a 50p rate for all day.

11. Air Show

Outline details of the Air Show were given for 14th June 2015.

The Town Clerk also outlined the other events for 2015 including the processions (Carnival, Mayors parade, VE and VJ Day and the Remembrance parade).

12. Continental Markets

The Town Clerk confirmed that more continental market days were expected in 2015.

13. One Way System

The meeting asked for an update on the one way system review. The latest information was given including the 'keep clear' markings by the Old Spar, alterations to the traffic island by Jehu Road and the change of right of way at the Brook Street/Jehu Road Junction.

14. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be held on Monday 16th March 2015 at 7pm.