

Welshpool Town Council
(Welshpool Projects)

BUSINESS FORUM

MINUTES

**Of a meeting held on
Monday 15th June 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber**

Present were:

Robert Robinson (acting Chair)
Cllr A Bowen
Cllr H Sherlock (M and Co)
Alan Crowe (Ali Cra Entertainments)
Mervyn and Heather Parkes (Lamplite Antiques)
Val Edwards
Freda Davies
Tom Harris (Nibbles)
Ros Jones (Celtic Shop)
Simon Sainsbury's

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S Kaye, Cllr E Bleivas, Cllr H Evans, Graham Breeze and Yolland Breeze.

2. Minutes of the last meeting]

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the acting Chair.

3. Siroli – visit by facilitation officer

A visit by the facilitation office will be arranged for a future meeting.

4. Actions taken since last meeting:

a. Puzzle Square

An update was given on the development of Puzzle Square.

b. Rates consultation

The rates consultation notes from the last meeting have been passed to the Minister.

5. Town Services update

a. Day Centre

An update was given on the day centre takeover by Welshpool Town Council.

b. Meals on Wheels

This services has been taken over by Welshpool Town Council.

c. Other key services

The Town Council is negotiating for the takeover of the street cleaning, youth service, library, car parks, buses and community transport.

6. Town update

a. Tesco site

A short update was given on the Tesco Site.

b. Lidl's application

An update was given on progress with this application which is likely to be refused on 23rd June.

c. General overview

The general view of the town is that things are improving.

7. Rail and Bus services

a. Main line railway

An update was given on the new rail timetable.

b. Local buses review

A discussion took place around the bus services review by PCC as follows:

The 74/76 should be swapped, buses should encourage trade to remain in Wales and in particular Welshpool. (That is the Llanfyllin – Welshpool bus)

Traders found the Foel to Welshpool bus good for trade with a number of smaller shops referring to the fact that persons using that bus come to their shops.

If buses are reduced (with an aging population) then there will be more people driving on the roads that perhaps should not be.

A local bus serving areas such as Middletown/Llanfyllin etc should be retained ahead of an Oswestry bus.

8. Eisteddfod (31st July to 8th August)

The meeting discussed possible representation at the Eisteddfod and decided it was too expensive. However, maybe shops could stay open a few nights that week to gain trade from this event. Maybe the Town Council could provide a bus in the evening for people to come into town if they wish.

It was **AGREED** that Ros Jones would liaise with the Town Clerk and 'hatch a plan'.

9. Winter Festival

The date of the Winter Festival is Saturday 5th December with the Christmas Lights switch on the night before.

The winter festival was discussed and the following suggestions put forward:

Entertainment to be more children orientated.

Perhaps more 'Christmas' type Stalls.

Perhaps have a character such as 'Olaf' which attended the Carnival.

A Punch and Judy event was suggested.

Side streets need more of the entertainment to feel part of the Festival.

All comments will be passed to the Winter Festival Committee.

10. Date of next meeting

To be Monday 20th July 2015 at 7pm in the Town Hall.