

Welshpool Town Council
(Welshpool Projects)

BUSINESS FORUM
MINUTES

Of a meeting held on
Monday 19th October 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber

1. Record of attendance

The following is the record of attendance:

Present were

Cllr S Kaye	Chair
Robert Robinson	Town Clerk
Cllr Amy Bowen	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr Heather Sherlock	M & Co and Welshpool Town Council
Cllr Brendan McWhinnie	Welshpool Town Council
Val Edwards	
Christine Holmes	Flaunt It
Ian Flintham	Flaunt It
Ros Jones	Celtic Shop
Tommy	Nibbles
Alan Crowe	Ali Cra Entertainments

Apologies received from

Cllr E Bleivas	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr H Evans	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr G Breeze	Welshpool Town Council
Mervyn Parkes	Lamplite Antiques
Heather Parkes	Lamplite Antiques
Kay Derwas	Mid Wales Stoves
Yolland Breeze	Mid Wales Trophies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Puzzle Square

The Town Clerk gave an update on progress:

- I) Lighting completed.
- II) Planting completed by traders with cash issued.
- III) Signage completed.
- IV) Maps completed.
- V) Blockwork repairs completed.

- VI) Sculpture
- VII) Archway – under discussion with Kenton Jones.

4. One Way System

The Minister is meeting the Town Council soon, a report back can be given following that meeting.

5. Town Services update

The Town Clerk gave an update on the current budget cuts situation and how it affects the Town at this point in time.

The Town Clerk also outlined the consultation to take place. The open day for this is 13th November from 10am to 7pm in the Corn Exchange of the Town Hall.

6. Town update

The meeting received an update on the Tourism Meeting held in October.

7. Town centre shops

The meeting received an update on the Town Shops which are vacant and under offer. The Town Council annual Town Centre review is due to take place later in the Month and the next meeting can be updated on this.

8. Rail and Bus services

The meeting was updated on the Main line railway survey and how it was going. The new car park at the station is completed except for its Network Rail inspections which are due this week. It can be opened for use soon after that.

9. Christmas in Welshpool

The meeting considered the following:

i) Free car parking days.

The Town Clerk has asked PCC about free parking at Christmas. There was some doubt as to whether this was to happen this year. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should see if the car parks can be rented this year so free car parking can be offered. The Town Council has been renting car parks for events during the year for £200 per day.

ii) Christmas Lights Winter Festival.

The meeting received a report on the Christmas Lights and in particular noted the special event to take place just before switch on.

iii) Winter Festival.

The meeting was updated on progress with the Winter Festival. Suggestions for locations of Christmas trees was considered.

iv) Anything else that can be done to promote shopping in the Town.

The meeting considered other matters relating to attracting shoppers as follows:

Leaflets for individual shops can be put in the T.I.C. (no cost)

Local attractions and shopping racks being considered.

Local tourist attraction in town centre would be good (this is Town Council Town Plan Policy)

Poundland to be approached to help with free car parking for Christmas.

BIDS scheme to be considered to gain free car parking.

Aggressive parking warden to be reported.

The following was also noted:

The footfall through the T.I.C. has increased to around 34k visitors.

Some shops are reporting falling trade while others are reporting Increased trade.

Some shops report lower footfall while others report increased footfall.

10. Planning Application for Buttington Cross

The Town Clerk reported on a planning application received for a petrol filling station and convenience store.

Those present felt that anything out of town was to be resisted.

11. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting which is Monday 16th November 2015 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

12. Actions taken forward:

The following actions are to be taken forward:

Enquiries about renting the car parking at Christmas.

Take ideas about the Town to the Council.