

Welshpool Town Council
(Welshpool Projects)

BUSINESS FORUM
MINUTES

of a meeting held on
Monday 21st March 2016 at 7pm in the Council Chamber

Present were:

Cllr S Kaye (Chair)	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr A Bowen	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr G Breeze	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr A Holloway	Welshpool Town Council
Freda Davies	Welshpool Projects Ltd
Yolland Breeze	Mid Wales Trophies
Tommy Harris	Nibbles
Ann Harris	Nibbles
Christine Holmes	Flaunt It
Andrew Flintham	Flaunt It
D A Harris	Coco
Amanda Gittins	
J Anthony	Tuck Box
Kaye Derwas	Mid Wales Stoves
Carol Alexander	Alexander's
Duncan Alexander	Alexander's
Heather Parkes	Lamplite Antiques
Mervyn Parkes	Lamplight Antiques
Heather Sherlock	M and Co
Robert Robinson	Town Clerk Welshpool Town Council

1. Apologies for absence

The meeting received apologies for absence from Val Edwards and Simon Ebrey.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Dementia Friendly Town

An update was given on progress with Councillors receiving a presentation and the Town Council staff trained. A steering group is now in place.

4. Puzzle Square

The meeting considered a report on the scheme. A short report on where are with a note of the remaining monies has been passed to Christine Holmes who will meet the traders and come up with some suggestions.

5. Town Services update

The meeting received an update on the street scene services and the Town Council's progress to take over such services.

There is deep concern about the antisocial behaviour in the Town and many instances of such acts were given. The Police appear to have lost the confidence of the traders who feel that they are not responding to their requests and reporting of incidents.

6. Town update

The meeting considered three matters as follows:

a) Aldi proposal – site next to Smithfield Bell.

The meeting had not observations to make on the proposals.

b) B&M and another – site with blue hoardings on Tesco side of Smithfield Road

The meeting received details of the new businesses to come onto the remaining retail part of the site surrounded by the blue hoardings.

c) Greg's – proposal to move into the old Stead and Simpson Shop Unit

The meeting spent some time on this subject.

The Town Clerk reported that a planning application had been received for signage and other plant but no application had been received at this time for a change of use to A3.

The meeting was concerned about the effect on the local tea rooms and establishments in that area of trade.

The meeting **AGREED** to object to any change of use to A3 on the grounds of:

- i) There is enough provision in the Town for the products offered by Greg's.
- ii) The effect would be detrimental to the Town Centre in that it will affect a number of shop units that will probably go empty due to overprovision.

7. Wind Farm transport

The meeting was updated on the works being carried out in preparation for the Wind Farm convoys and transport due in July and August to support the construction of the Tirquint site.

The meeting considered an update on the Mid Wales conjoined inquiry and other wind farm sites.

The meeting **AGREED** that they would like to meet representatives from the Wind Farm Company to fully understand the effects it might have on the town.

8. Tourism and Town Guides

The meeting received an update on the tourist maps and events booklets which are to be circulated by a professional company to many outlets in North and Mid Wales along with the West Midlands.

9. Traffic Order

The meeting considered the news that the long awaited traffic order is to be implemented very soon. This will include some changes on loading restrictions and also changes in parking bay times.

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meetings are to be:

Monday 18th April 2016 at 6pm in the Council Chamber
Public meeting inviting the Wind Farm Company and the Police

Monday 16th May 2016 at 6pm in the Council Chamber
For the normal business meeting.