

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

LOCAL BUSINESS FORUM

MINUTES

of a meeting held on **Monday 20th March 2017**
at 6pm in the Town Hall Broad Street Welshpool

1. Present were:

Present were:

Cllr S Kaye Chair

Robert Robinson Town Clerk

Representatives from Aldi Supermarkets

Heather Sherlock M&Co

Christine Holmes Flaunt It

Andrew Flintham Flaunt It

Val Edwards

Freda Davies

Alan Crowe Ali Cra Entertainments

Mary Tudor Severn Valley Project

2. Minutes

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Actions since the last meeting

The meeting considered the actions taken since the last meeting as follows:

Recycling Centres

The meeting noted the arrangements coming in on 1st April 2017. Potters Welshpool will be open Mondays, Fridays & Saturdays. The report also updated the meeting on the Street Scene service Delivery.

1940's weekend

A presentation on this weekend for 2017 is to be made at the May meeting.

Freight Transport for Mid Wales

There is a link to a survey on freight transport strategies. If anyone is interested please contact Mary Tudor.

4. Town Centre Update

The meeting received an update on the following:

4.1 Aldi

The representatives from Aldi gave an outline of the store which is due to open on 27th April 2017.

The other points of note were:

10-15 jobs created.

90 car spaces on site with a restriction to 90 minutes.

Aldi is happy to have the town centre booklets in the store.

A Voucher system was suggested for local residents affected by the scheme – this is not current Aldi policy.

The canal side view was raised, there is planting due but nothing else planned at present. If a mural was considered this should be done in consultation with the Town Council who will seek public views first.

4.2 B&M with Pets at Home

The latest information is that both stores are due to open late May 2017. There is a rumour that Costa Coffee maybe included, no application to provide for such has been seen.

4.3 Other shops in the town

The movement in the shops in the Town Centre were recorded including the shoe shop moving from Puzzle Square, Langfords still vacant and the occupation of the 'old Chinese' premises in Severn Street. The old NFU building in Boot Street is under offer.

4.4 General town matters

The Town Centre is showing no signs of there being any issues at this time with the shop vacancy rate being the lowest for over a decade. The centre is doing moderately well compared with such towns as Newtown, Oswestry and even Shrewsbury.

5. Tourism information

The Town Clerk reported on the booklets being produced for this summer:

- Town Guide (now available)
- Red Map Guide to Welshpool & its attractions
- Events booklet
- Shopping booklet

The red map is being delivered all over the North and Mid Wales areas as well as the West Midlands.

6. Visually impaired

The Town Clerk reported on his review of street furniture with regards to the visually impaired. The current guidelines are that posts etc on walkways should be with a white stripe and not yellow. This will be addressed over the summer months.

7. Other subjects covered were

7.1 Yellow Line Review and loading

Some concern was expressed about the effect of loading, particularly in Puzzle Square, now that the new restrictions are in place. Chris Lloyd at Powys County Council is aware of the situation.

7.2 Puzzle Square entrance

No further news at present.

7.3 Rates

A short discussion took place around rates. No actions by the Forum needed at this time.

8. Date of next meeting

To note the next meeting to be Tuesday 15th May 2017