



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

**Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday 25th January 2012 at 6pm
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

Minutes

Present: Emma Lee, Sue White, John Pragnell, Andrew Hunt, Sam Parr, Peggy White, Helen Thorne, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Ian Stock, Cathy Wiggan, Terry Sanford, Alison Stock, Andrew Govier, Judith Goss, Jackie Govier, Janet Reed, Dave Mitton, Wim Joustra, Tracey Hall, Michael Coate and Ian Kevan.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Beryl Griffiths, Brian Withers and Frank Morris.

2. Presentation from Ian Kevan – Town Guide Apps

Ian Kevan introduced himself to the Chamber as a Director of Wellington company TutorPro Ltd. They have recently launched a new line in their software development – Town Guide Apps. This is an App for iPhone and Smart Phones, in which a town can have an app where all the details for the town can be downloaded onto a mobile phone. Information includes shops and businesses (and their current special offers), interactive map, events in the town etc. He pointed out that basically anything can be included that is relevant to the town, and as each business would have their own log-in details

they would be able to change and update details and pictures etc as and when they needed to.

The company have already created Apps for Bridgwater, Truro and Tenbury Wells, and are in the process of creating an App for Taunton and Newham in London.

The current cost for the App is £595 + VAT per year (although this is a special offer for towns that sign up early), but there is no charge to individual businesses included on the App.

Ian informed the Chamber that they had approached Wellington Town Council with regards to this, but had been told that there was no money available to fund such a project. They had decided to come to the Chamber with the possibility of getting a group together to fund it, or maybe look into sponsorship from some of the larger local companies.

Sue White suggested that there is a possibility of applying for a grant to cover some of the cost from Taunton Deane Economic Development.

The Chamber thanked Ian for his presentation and assured him that it would be considered and discussed further.

3. Minutes of previous meeting – Matters Arising

Wellington Business Fair

Sue White informed the Chamber that the Wellington Business Fair is to be held on Thursday 23 February 2012 at the Wellington Rugby Club between 3pm and 7.30pm, and is kindly being sponsored by Porter Dodson Solicitors.

There are currently 20 exhibitors signed up to have stands in the main room, with speakers holding seminars at intervals in the smaller rooms. The seminars include employment issues for businesses, putting financial safeguards in place to ensure long-term business stability, how to make apprenticeships work for you, how Social Media can enhance your business and BT broadband.

Sue White expressed her thanks to Hattie Winter, of Taunton Deane Economic Development, for all her hard work in helping to organise the event.

Wellington Food Town

John Pragnell reported that the Committee had notified all of last year's stall holders that the Wellington Food Festival was being held on Saturday 8th September 2012. They will begin chasing replies next month.

Wellington Town Council Report

Jackie Govier reported that Wellington Town Council had given a grant to Wellington Scouts, so as they were able to send one of the Scouts to a Jamboree in Sweden.

Questions had been raised as to the future of the Community Centre in White Hart Lane. It is owned by Taunton Deane Borough Council, but owned in trust by the people of the town. This means that if it is sold, the proceeds must be ploughed back into another community project within the town.

With regards to the upcoming Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Council are still waiting to hear ideas for celebrations. However they are giving money towards the lighting of the beacon.

A group has been set up to discuss the potential of continuing the provision of Youth Services in the town after the threat of closure of the Wellington Youth Centre due to funding.

4. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

It was suggested that it may be best to join forces with the Street Fair organised by the Carnival Committee, and have one special day rather than trying to organise lots of different events. The Chamber agreed that street entertainment was needed, and also the town centre shops would need to open.

Vivienne Stock-Williams suggested organising a small working party to organise things.

5. Working with Taunton Chamber

Ian Stock told the Chamber that he had been discussing with Taunton Chamber the possibility of working together with them. Ideas suggested were joint meetings and shared administration.

The general feeling of Chamber members was that it would be a good thing to join forces with Taunton Chamber, and that it would need to be looked at in further detail.

6. Business to Business Dinner – Cleve Hotel

A networking dinner has been arranged for 18th April 2012 at the Cleve Hotel. The information has been forwarded to Chamber members, although it is not clear how many have booked for the evening.

7. Chamber Constitution

Sue White informed the Chamber that the Chamber Constitution can be discussed, however it cannot be changed except during an AGM or EGM.

Ian Stock suggested preparing the changes for the upcoming AGM in October. Alison Stock, Terry Sanford and Ian Stock agreed to meet and discuss the changes that would be needed to bring it up-to-date.

8. Any Other Business

Farmer's Market

Michael Coate told Chamber member's that Christmas was very busy, down not least to the fact that the weather was much better than the previous year. They had also put a large advert in the Blackdown Hills paper, and found that a lot of people had come to the Market from that area.

They have held the first Farmer's Market of 2012, which was busy although did not see as many regulars as usual.

True Trends

Peggy White spoke up to the Chamber in an attempt to quash rumours that the clothing shop True Trends was closing. She said this is not happening, but feels that these rumours have seriously affected recent sales.

Sue White suggested writing a letter to Wellington Weekly News to spread the news.

The meeting closed at 8pm.