



## Spalding & District Area Members' Meeting Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012, Broad Street Business Centre, Spalding

### Meeting Summary Notes

#### Members & Guests (signed in)

Jason Rooke, President (Rooke's Pet Products); Phil Scarlett, Vice President (The Edge Consultancy); Mary Adams (Geo. Adams); P Baker (Paul's Private Hire); Simon Beardsley (LCCI); Judy Brookes (Smart Cabs); Matt Clark (ACTIV); Harry Drury (We'll Let Your House); Christine Hanson (Bookmark); Robyn Ketteringham (REM); Julie Grant (Butters, Spalding); Steve Mason & D Mason (Masons Models); Michelle Morley (Spalding Energy); David Norton (Springfields Events Centre); Sarah Patterson (Adams); N Parish (A-Team Taxis); Phil Pell (The Office Shop); John Sinclair (REM); Mr Barry & Mrs Sue Stubleby (Occasions Jewellers); Tracy Thomas (Springfields Outlet Shopping); Mark Uylett (Lloyds TSB); Jan Whitbourn (Tulip Radio); Peter Williams (Punch Bowl); Tony Wright (Lance Design).

#### Apologies

Simon Clarke; Philip Hall; Jill Kirby; Alistair Main; Angela Newton; David Sanderson; Nigel Wallis.

#### 1. President's Welcome

The President welcomed members, prospective new members and guests. Also PC Paul Smith, Lincolnshire Police and Barry Inman representing CRASH.

#### 2. Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

#### 3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### 4. CRASH Update

Barry Inman, co-ordinator of CRASH – Crime Reduction Action South Holland - provided an update of the scheme which supplies radios to members to assist with crime reduction (mainly shop-lifting) in shops. Radio alerts are coordinated with the CCTV room and PCSOs also carry radios so they can provide an immediate response to any incidents. From July the scheme will be administered by the Lincolnshire Chamber and existing CRASH members will be invited to transfer to the new scheme. Radios will be available for those members who want them at the much reduced cost of £3 per week. CRASH will become a sub-group of the Spalding & District Area Chamber with a new management committee responsible for policy decisions and liaising with the Police and other organisations. The committee will also make recommendations on banning orders and supply photographs of banned persons to all members.

SB confirmed that some radios would be available for a free trial period and that final details of the contractual arrangements for the transfer of assets and responsibilities were about to be completed.

#### 5. President's Activity Summary

##### a) SHDC Portfolio Holders Meeting

Items discussed at the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April included:-

- Holland Market – no plans submitted as yet. However, they need to be submitted in the near future or they may go on “hold” due to other priorities.
- Chamber asked to list requirements that s106 monies could be spent on to mitigate the impact on the town as a direct result of the development.
- Business Rates currently paid go to Central Government but from next year this will change where “new/additional” rates earned will stay with the local Council.
- Converting the Victoria Street car park to “green-space” is only an idea at the moment and is not part of any official plan.
- Parking – LCC will outsource street parking later this year. This will encourage businesses to ensure their staff park in car parks. Traffic Wardens will not be able to act as Town Rangers as well, as they will be employed by the contractor with strict controls on their duties and powers.
- S106 – Cllr. Howard Johnson agreed to provide a complete list of all s106 funds related to the Springfields development still to be spent along with any relevant conditions. Access to these funds will be required in order to progress the plan for the new town centre bus stop opposite the water-taxi station.
- Local Plan – will be out by next April. It will designate areas for retail/leisure/business/housing etc. The Chamber will be involved in the consultation process and will be submitting comments via the South-East Lincolnshire Local Plan.
- Drinking – Cllr. Chandler explained that because of the existing DPPO there cannot be a further by-law against drinking in the town. The Police (Constables) have the power to seize alcohol. SHDC meeting the Police next week to ask for a purge and better enforcement as per the DPPO rules.
- No decision as yet on a “late night levy” for pubs and clubs. This will be discussed by the new Licensing Committee which is being formed next week.
- Super-fast Broadband – this will be coming to Spalding anyway. SHDC will only make a contribution if there is an additional benefit e.g. extended to villages.
- Waterspace Strategy – nothing being actioned specifically at the moment but it is still embedded in the future development plans for the town.
- Castle Sports Centre redevelopment – a number of options and opportunities still being considered.
- Rail Hub – will probably go ahead but on a small “trial” scale in the first instance. No planning application has been submitted as yet.
- Old Johnson Hospital – nothing to report.
- Next meeting in six months time or earlier if there is a need.

#### b) Police Matters

PC Paul Smith provided additional information on the DPPO powers of the Police. Warning notices had been printed in six languages and banning orders were being issued. There had been a reduction in bike theft and also reported shop-lifting was lower.

#### c) LCC Highways Update

No major work planned other than the changes to the West Elloe Avenue and Pinchbeck Road junction. Discussion followed on the plan to appoint contractors to manage street parking in the town. Common-sense approach required with some lead-in time needed to allow for adequate information on restrictions and penalties to be distributed.

#### d) Holland Market Development

PS reported that the Chamber were conscious that there will be some negative impact caused by the extension of Holland Market. In response to the Council’s request the Chamber will submit a “wish-list” of things which need to be funded via s106 money linked to the development. Members will be asked for their views, but the following have already been suggested:-

- Open access from Holland Market to/from the town centre via the Pied Calf or Kwik-Fit by the removal of buildings and the construction of an attractive pedestrian walkway.

- Covered five day market in Market Place.
- Appointment of a Town Centre Manager.
- Street signage (high level wrought iron) to identify niche shopping areas such as The Crescent and Red Lion Street.
- Extend the Food Festival into much more than a one day event and make it a major annual visitor attraction.
- Appoint Street Rangers to supervise the appearance of the town and make people feel welcome and "safe".
- Install new directional signage from Holland Market to Market Place.
- Have flowers/shrubs in the planters throughout the year to make a real "Blooming Spalding".
- Regular clean-ups of "grot-spots" by Payback teams and other groups.
- Additional Xmas lights, hanging baskets and bunting to create an "all-inclusive" town centre.
- Improvements to the riverside and better use of the Welland/Coronation Channel (in line with the Waterspace Strategy proposals)
- Chamber to be consulted on and co-sign off any expenditure with SHDC on the s106 monies

CH raised concerns about the lack of consultation and public debate over the Holland Market proposals. It seemed that the developers were putting forward all their plans without any dialogue with residents or SHDC about what they might like to see happen. The President confirmed that the Chamber had an undertaking from the developer and SHDC that there would be an opportunity for comprehensive public consultation once the outline plans were submitted.

#### e) SHDC Cabinet/Spalding Town Forum

The President reported that the final RLQ report was still "work-in-progress" and that the interim report had included a damning list of errors and incompetence.

PS reported that Chamber had made arrangements through the Town Forum for the Parade Weekend bunting to stay up through the Jubilee, the Torch Relay and the Olympics. Additionally, discussions were on-going about replacing the Christmas lights and possibly contracting Chamber to be the delivery organisation.

#### f) Spalding & Peterborough Transport Forum

The President reported attending the Forum's AGM where ideas under discussion include the "adoption" of the railway station to make it more welcoming for visitors and commuters and an improvement in the train service timetable.

#### g) Civic Society

The President attended a meeting with the Civic Society and generally found that they had much in common with the Chamber in regard to their ambitions for the town.

## 6. Reports/Events

#### a) Membership/Voucher Promotion

PS reported three new members and one lost. There was a potential of 26 new members through the CRASH scheme. Another full page feature in the Guardian (26<sup>th</sup> April) plus more member vouchers helped to make sure that Chamber continues to be seen as the leading business organisation in the area.

#### b) Love Where You Live -Town Clean-Up Campaign

CH reported that unfortunately the event had been rained off although there had been some good work done in certain areas of the town thanks to individuals carrying out their own campaigns. The next official "Clean-Up" would be Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July, ahead of the Olympic Torch Relay.

#### c) Blooming Spalding 2012

PS reported an excellent response for hanging baskets from all around the town.

d) Christmas Festival 2012

Plans for the Christmas Festival (Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December) are being co-ordinated by Jan Whitbourn.

e) Tourism/Projects

DN confirmed that discussions are still progressing, albeit slowly, about the new town centre bus stop and that both LCC Highways and LCC were giving their positive support. Highways had indicated that the cost of creating the new pull-in bay (opposite the water-taxi station) would be in the region of £40,000. The cost should be met from the Springfields s106 funds.

DN also updated on the plans for a Chamber led South Lincolnshire Tourism & Hospitality organisation which would hopefully include member benefits including listing options with the new VisitLincolnshire.com website. The Spalding Area Tourism Forum initiative was also being progressed by David Stanbridge (Cley Hall) and Geoff Taylor (Chain Bridge Forge).

f) CRASH Update

Covered under Agenda Item 4.

g) Speed Networking

TW updated on the Speed Networking evening which had been re-scheduled to Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

## 7. Any Other Business

a) AGM Matters

The President outlined the programme for the AGM, confirming that the guest speaker would be Terry Huggins, Chief Executive South Holland & Breckland District Councils.

Additionally, members will need to elect a new vice-President to replace Phil Scarlett who will be taking over as President. As Phil has indicated that he may be re-locating away from the area, the person elected may have to cover the Presidency ahead of the normal two year term. Other nominations will be required for the Chamber Council and for Chamber representatives to sit on outside organisations if required.

As there was no other business, the President thanked everyone for attending and for their comments, and declared the meeting closed.

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

- **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June:** Council Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July:** Spalding Area Chamber AGM – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm to include election of officers & representatives. Guest speaker Terry Huggins, Chief Executive South Holland & Breckland District Councils
- **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July:** Council Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August:** Council Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September:** Members' Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September:** Council Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October:** Chamber Council meeting with SHDC Portfolio Holders – 6.00pm
- **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October:** Council Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November:** Members' Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November:** Speed Networking – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.30 for 6.00pm