



## Spalding & District Area Members' Meeting

Tuesday 2nd November 2010  
Broad Street Business Centre, Spalding

### Meeting Summary Notes

#### 1 President's Report

The President reported that the area was progressing well at 60 members and still growing. He felt that the recent meeting with the SHDC leadership was a great achievement, that a very positive outcome was noted by both sides and gave the Chamber an increased relevance. There were a number of key areas covered in the meeting, including:

- It was felt that in future Freedom of Information requests should not be needed as we were given assurances and improved routes to information.
- The Council suggested coming up with a wish list of relevant projects to spend section 106 monies on.
- The Chamber Area Council was able to find out more about how council works.
- Better contacts for highways and security were discussed.
- The impact of government spending cuts was discussed. SHDC felt it had been planning for some time and a number of projects were already looking to save back office costs. Further reviews would take place with the possibility of an independent company undertaking some services and sharing costs between authorities.
- SHDC members were keen to talk and keen to work with the Chamber in future.
- Pavement gritting was raised. SHDC advised they have no remit pavement gritting and it was up to individuals to keep paths open. Discussions resulted about more salt bins and where they should be placed.

The President closed his comments by reminding the meeting about Spalding's Christmas Super Saturday on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November.

#### 2 Partnership Updates

##### 2.1 Highways

Apologised for not attending so far, but did again send the report which follows:

Major work expected - November - December 2010

- **Spalding Town Centre** - Christmas light switch on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Road closures will be in operation in the Market Place/Hall Place area to facilitate event.
- **Santa Fun Run** - Commercial Road, High Street, Town Centre, Albion Street areas. Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010. To be marshalled by police and stewards - no traffic management.
- **The Crescent traders Christmas shopping event** - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Road closure at The Crescent and Francis Street to facilitate event.
- **West Elloe Bridge** - Road closure due to be removed from north bridge in mid-November. Other works will continue with lane closures on north and south bridges but this will enable traffic to use both bridges.

Major work expected - January 2011

- **Junction Woolram Wygate/Pinchbeck Road, Spalding** - Junction improvement works. Provisional booking for works between early January and end of April 2011. Likely to involve road closures for at least part of the works, no more details available at the moment.
- **Red Lion Street, Spalding** - Enhancement works to the highway for new food heritage centre (primarily funded by SHDC works by LCC). Likely to happen between mid-January and end of February 2011. No further information available at the moment. LCC are working closely with SHDC on this project and will be speaking to local businesses in due course.

In addition the president reported on the Twin bridges after chat to project manager. He advised it was helpful, received an admission not enough resources were committed, but recently felt this had been better. The North bridge was due to open the next day, but still awaiting waterproofing due to bad weather. Hoped now to get done this week/early next week. The South bridge will not be fully closed at any time but will be subject to lane closures.

The President expressed a desire to improve dialogue with Highways and was personally happy to be involved with this. Any related issues should be sent for his attention.

### **2.1 Richard Baggaley, a brief intro to Red Lion quarter**

Richard gave a short presentation on the progress of works and background behind the development. In 2006 a brown field site in central Spalding was identified. SHDC, with partners, looked to build a food heritage centre, and define what that would be. The brief agreed was to design, build and run the building, but not to at a cost to the public purse. Rationale behind the project were discussed and Richard highlighted the forthcoming marketing opportunities and the possibility to look around the building. (For both issues contact Richard directly on 01775 764802 or [rbaggaley@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:rbaggaley@sholland.gov.uk))

Practical completion is due in Jan 2011 and it was suggested the next members' meeting could incorporate a viewing of the facility.

Richard finished by promising consultation with businesses and he was also happy to be contacted directly on relevant issues.

### **3 Security**

Pete Williams reported on a number of issues including:

- Early morning drinking by foreign workers in Chapel Lane increasing. But overall the town seemed to be fairly quiet. It was felt that now the Orchid has gone, crime has reduced through less people in general coming out.
- At the meeting with SHDC they were confident more police resources will be in place next year, but limited details are available about exactly how this will look at present.
- Reinforced need to get crime numbers to record crime.
- Shopwatch/CRASH. Look to work closer with CRASH and invite a representative to attend the next meeting in January.

### **4 Events**

Adam Patman (SHDC) reported:

- Pumpkin festival – general evaluation was good; enjoyed time, hit capacity. Looking still for feedback for next year. Stats given at next meeting.
- Christmas – Super Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November general market, 11.00am – 5.00pm entertainment, 11.00am – 4.00pm Santa, freepress, Spalding brass band, choir, lights 4.30pm.
- Request Adam to summaries. Flier to be sent by AP.

Christine Hanson reported:

- Love where you live – Rotary had donated 2000 crocus bulbs and these had been planted by volunteers last Sunday.

Caroline Kenyon – Kenyon Communications gave a short presentation on the revised Flower Parade:

- Kenyon Communications are a Lincolnshire based marketing and PR Company who have won the contract to run the parade for the next 2 years.
- Caroline thanked David Norton for past expertise and support.
- Main reason for continued public funding was that it generates around £1½ m for local economy.
- Next year will see introduction of an artistic element and a fanfare for Spalding being written.
- Currently drip-feeding information into the local press and meeting key contacts. A more regular column in the paper will also be taken.
- *Best garden in Spalding* competition also. Looking for local, regional and national draw.
- Year 1 aim is to deliver, consolidate and understand the parade.
- As more comes in the press, more opinions needed and Caroline would like to hear more from members.
- Sponsorship opportunities available – British icons will be the theme this year.

## **5 Media and Publicity**

Tony Wright updated on speed-networking event due for the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. It aims to be a social event, networking and Chamber membership promotional event. To help with the Christmas feel, members were asked for help with Decorations. Radio and press adverts have already been sorted.

## **6 and 7 Tourism/Project/Funding**

Still working on vintage bus concept. David Norton reported a good meeting with Simon Clarke regarding links with the water taxi. The sub-group will meet again soon and continue to progress. Ongoing, we will also be looking at developing the network of visitor attractions next year.

## **8 Representation and Lobbying**

Simon Burton will be attending the SHDC Cabinet meeting next Tuesday. The next meeting after that is due on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January. Questions will need to be sent in by the end of December and members were encouraged to submit these directly to Simon or the President.

## **9 Membership**

Phillip Hall reported on the need to focus on increasing membership and hoped those non-members that attended the meeting had found it interesting and beneficial. Membership remains key; SHDC acknowledge the benefit of working with a proactive group and more members should lead to increasing Influence. It was again reinforced that we are not just looking at town centre members, but at the wider business community.

## **10 Any other business**

Requests were made for:

- Email of member benefits.
- Bruce Wakelin or an SHDC ED contact to attend future meetings with updates.

## **Next Meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 – Provisionally including a tour of the Red Lion Street Quarter

**President's Update:** Jason Rooke (JR) reported that Steve Shephard had to step down as President due to personal issues; Steve will still continue as a member of the Chamber and look to become more actively involved again in the future. The issue had been discussed at the last Area Council meeting where council members had enthusiastically given their support to JR stepping up to become the President. JR was not expecting to take the role at this time and wanted to be sure that the members were happy with this change. A proposal was made to the meeting for others to stand for the position and as there were no takers, that subsequently JR be appointed President now. This was confirmed unanimously. JR then sought offers of support for the Vice-President role and for additional council members.

JR went on to give a summary of achievements since the inception of Chamber, including Christmas activities, Love Where you Live, Representation, funding initiatives and networking.

**Membership:** Phil Hall (PH) reported membership numbers now at 55. He reinforced that we were still looking to make that up to 100 by the end of the year. PH said he had signed up 3 new members in the last 24 hours. JR had 5 irons in the fire. JR said it was essential that numbers are increased to make sure we represent the views of the wider business community and our voice is heard. Kevin Pallister asked about the use of press profile and about an open day to show what has been done to date; both issues are addressed further in the notes below. PH informed members that the Area Council had committed to introduce a new member, and members at the meeting were encouraged to support this.

**Publicity:** Tony Wright (TW) said that we had tried a number of approaches to the local press but not got anything published. It was suggested that an alternative approach be considered and Matt Clarke (MC) and JR would support this

**Action: MC & JR to set up a meeting with TW and Garry Scattergood.**

#### **Events:**

- a. Christmas – Another meeting of the planning group was due to take place soon and further reports will be made at the next meeting. Heart FM had proactively approached and a quote was being investigated. Consideration was also suggested about using Tulip FM as well. Planning group will consider quotes.
- b. Love where you live – On hold now until Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September. If the weather is good, two more sessions will run (10.00am – 12noon and 2.00pm until 4.00pm). Potentially planting crocus bulbs as well. 2000 donated by Rotary. Support required requested and thanks given to those who helped in past successful events.
- c. Blooming Spalding – members at the meeting were advised to take care of hanging baskets with self watering systems as they had become exceptionally heavy in the recent heavy rain. Christine Hanson reported her two had nearly fallen off under excessive weight.
- d. Food Festival – A meeting was held that afternoon. Feedback was now requested from all areas, and we would seek a full report from SHDC at the next meeting. Members at this meeting viewed it as excellent, with positive feedback for the last 2 days, although it was for 3 weeks. Work could be done on communication between those putting events on in the week. Compliments went to Bakkovar. Consideration was suggested about running better over 2 weekends. Potential Chamber help next year to better spread or to pass on messages. Facebook also used well. The need to feedback to Steve Kerwood was underlined by JR.

**Action: Send feedback to JR who will pass on.**

**Tourism:** David Newton (DN) reported the Flower Festival was scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011. New parade management would be handled by Kenyon communications, who also were associated with Saturday food fair. They have been confirmed in the role for 2011/12. Pete Williams (PW) reported on the early plans of the project sub-group to gain better Transport links to Spalding town centre and Springfields. Coaches are at Springfields for 4 to 6 hours. The Water Taxi is good to move some traffic, but has limitations. It was felt that there still needed to be more links to get those visitors Spalding. Initially it was thought that a road train or tram could do this, but this was felt to be an expensive option ranging from approx. £70k to £200k. The focus then had moved towards heritage, working in fields, coming to flower parade in past, which in turn linked to vintage buses. At £15k to 25k per unit they were felt to be less complicated, associated to heritage, and providing a marketable opportunity. Good feedback was received from attendees. Suggestions of links to the water taxi if possible were made.

**Action: Email PW with any ideas to move the initiative forward.**

**Representation & Lobbying:** Simon Burton (SB) had attended the SHDC cabinet meeting that afternoon and was at the forum when this meeting was taking place. JR confirmed this would help our understanding of SHDC issues and also allow Chamber to have a voice in order to raise membership issues. JR also said that a meeting had been agreed between the SHDC leadership and Chamber council, but dates are still to be confirmed.

**Action:** Any policy or representational issues to be forwarded to SB

**Security/ Police:** PW reported he had to flag down Inspector Timmins to deal with a crowd of 15year old cider drinkers as they were falling into the road. PW confirm that the Inspector resolved the issue. A question was put to (JASON – DIDN'T NOTE THE PCSOs NAME), did the arrival of PCSOs mean fewer police on the beat. (XX replied) that Police shifts changing were being looked at, possibly working until midnight. So far Lincolnshire Police don't know what the budget will be for next year, but are aware it will be cut. Some natural wastage with no replacements, but the level of PCSOs is expected to be the same. The Police were only able to work with what they have at present. Rough sleepers – Sergeant Brotherton had a meeting with other agencies talk to rough sleepers. A further meeting was to be held next Tuesday to move this on.

**Funding:** Covered under tourism projects

**Highways:** Report produced by Jonathan Pearson considered to be very helpful. The attendees felt regular updates to be of real value.

**AOB:**

- Action - Set up email addresses for Area Council
- Networking event – TNG suggested as a main sponsor. Speed-networking event mixed with more details of Chamber and membership. To run 11<sup>th</sup> November - 5.30pm to 8.00pm. Refreshments / food having a festive theme. More details to be worked up with the central admin team.
- Business to Business – encourage members to use your services B2B incentives; current initiatives detailed on the web.
- Lincolnshire Chamber Website login details to be sent again to members to encourage them to use their own membership web space.
- Spalding & District Civic Society secretary, Robert West, accepted offer of the Chamber to join Chamber Council. Nigel Baker volunteered to be Chamber representative on the society committee and confirm to Robert West he will be welcome to serve on the Chamber Council.
- Other wishing to join council were requested to contact JR.
- Holbeach Business Forum PW agreed to attend their next meeting on behalf of Chamber.
- Elaine Allen, Unique Computer Training, mentioned she had funded training opportunities for Microsoft Office training

**Next Members' Meeting:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 5.30pm for a prompt 5.45pm start at Broad Street Business Centre.