



Spalding & District Area Members' Meeting

Tuesday 6th July 2010

Broad Street Business Centre, Spalding

Meeting Summary Notes

Vice president Jason Rooke (JR) opened proceedings, as the president was unable to attend the meeting. He gave a brief overview of how the members' meetings would run and a brief commentary on matters arising from the recent Area Council meeting.

Membership: Phil Hall (PH) reported that membership had reached 50 and this was half way towards the 100 level aimed for by the end of the year. PH is now back in full swing and will be targeting prospects once again. Attendees were reminded of their commitment to introduce a new member, and PH and Pete Williams (PW) agreed to meet to set up a working party.

ACTION: PH to meet with PW to set up a membership working party to help target and convert new members.

Events:

Love where you live update: Christine Hanson (CH) reported the litter pick and general clean had gone very well on Sunday, with approx 30 helpers in the morning and about 50 overall. There had been a good mix of Chamber members, business people and youngsters helping. A slide presentation running during the meeting showed clearly what an impact it had made. There will be another clean and pick up this Sunday, and all were invited to support, as Spalding in Bloom would be judged the following Monday.

A further meeting of the Love where you Live group will take place at Bookmark next Monday evening (12th July) at 5.45pm. To ensure wider communication and support, CH made members aware of the schools' poster campaign that had been launched, and to which members had kindly pledged support. Thanks were given to Maples Solicitors, Calthops Solicitors, Robert Goddard, M&C Design and Bookmark for providing prizes.

Christmas: Darryl Simpson (DS) reported that following the last meeting a sub-committee had been looking at Christmas in the town, as it was felt that the traditional Friday activity had limited support. It was suggested that the ultimate aim would be to move from Friday to Sunday, but not yet. A report had been sent out by email to give an overview. In summary this showed the outcome from the sub-committee meeting, which suggested an interim compromise of Saturday, as shops were already open and the events are to be moved from Friday. It was identified that a lot of good work was being done individually already, but by trying to bring this together it would provide greater impact. Sunday was considered a next step due to cost issues. Partners are supportive of Saturday and wish to involve as many parties as possible to start planning now and looking at the structure. Members were asked if they had any issues with Saturday 27th November 2010 being the Spalding launch of Christmas. A question was raised about what the neighbouring towns' launch dates were. **ACTION:** DS to check this date does not clash with others.

A vote was taken to accept the proposal and unanimous support was given. **ACTION:** DS to speak to working party to progress.

Blooming Spalding: CH suggested this should be left until the next meeting. Overall the aim will be to work with the committee to keep good looking all year round.

Food Festival: Steve Kerwood (SK) informed that there were only 3 weeks to go until the launch. Following good press coverage, 107 fringe events right across the district were now confirmed. The food fair itself has had double the take up. The 14th & 15th of August are expected to bring an extra 3,000 to 5,000 visitors over the days. Sponsors reported to be happy and talking about supporting again next year. Marketing push now happening; the banners went up on Friday targeting Tourist Information Centres, and brochures are being sent to all residents (40k homes).

ACTION: SK to provide brochures for shops and marketing packs on request.

SK thanked all for their help and support in the first year and informed it was not too late to get involved. For more details contact SK directly.

Representation & Lobbying: Simon Burton (SB) gave the opportunity to air issues. He advised that he would like to make a formal connection between Chamber and SHDC. He perceived this to be a good base to for questions which could then be moved on elsewhere if needed. The next meeting is on the 7th September. **ACTION:** All to send any questions directly to Simon or to the Spalding & District Chamber email address.

An application had been started to allow SB to attend SHDC cabinet meetings and a response on protocol was awaited. SB advised he was busy pulling together a list of councillors and executive officers with links to their responsibilities, so that the Chamber could host the information for members to be able to find out more accurately who they needed to speak to on issues.

Issues collected to date:

- What happens when SHDC has 25% reduction in income following cuts announced in the budget?
- How will SHDC consult with business want, on priorities and needs?
- Identification of base line services levels. Continue to chase for information.

CH said she had spoken to Garry Porter and planning had started 2 years ago, merging backroom services amongst other things bringing savings. His view was that we were unlikely to notice any change.

ACTION: CH to speak to Garry Taylor – offering dates to attend member meetings.

Funding Opportunities / Projects: Nigel Baker (NB) informed the meeting that the Area Council had formed a Projects sub-group looking to work up specific project ideas. Initially they will be looking for small pots of funding in areas such as tourism, arts education and Spalding in bloom were mentioned as areas to develop.

Letters of help to larger businesses for support projects will also be tried. A larger project was discussed at the meeting to increase vehicular links to Springfields. Potentially a tram or bus was suggested. The possibility of a trial with a hired train was one idea to be investigated further and how this could also link into the Food Festival trial.

ACTION: It was decided that Nicola Carr at Fenscape should be contacted by NB to ensure they were not looking at a project to duplicate this.

CH said that it had been identified that there were not enough bins in the town and the Love Where You Live committee had approached the Rotary Club with success to obtain £500 towards buying new bins.

Partnerships PC: Paul Smith (PS) - commended tidy up. He too felt full bins and lack of capacity were an issue. He also informed that there was scope within current bylaw to force owners to keep their premises clear, but legislation not taken up locally.

PS also reinforced **what a DPPO is?**

Designated Public Places Orders (DPPOs) help local authorities deal with the problems of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in public places. **This order is not a total ban on drinking alcohol in public places.** It just makes it an offence to carry on drinking alcohol when asked to stop by a constable or authorised officer. This allows them to deal with people who are behaving anti-socially as a result of drinking alcohol.

What does the introduction of the DPPO actually mean?

A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or police officer will have the power to ask a person to stop drinking alcohol in a public place if in his/her opinion:

- They are creating disorder or behaving in an anti-social manner when drinking or under the influence of alcohol
- They are likely to behave in an anti-social or disorderly way when drinking or under the influence of alcohol

Is it a ban on drinking alcohol?

No. A drinker's behaviour will be the consideration in any action by enforcement officers. It is not intended to stop an individual drinking sensibly. For example, if a person is drinking alcohol sensibly, for instance in a park with a picnic or outside a licensed premises, they will not be affected.

What are the offences relating to a DPPO?

It is not an offence to consume alcohol within a designated area, but failure to comply with an enforcement officer's requests to stop drinking and surrender alcohol without reasonable excuse is. Penalties include:

- A penalty notice for disorder of £50
- Arrest and prosecution for a level 4 fine (max £2,500)
- Bail conditions can stop the individual from drinking in public

PS Informed there had been an increase in bicycle thefts partly due to not locking bike up. D locks were suggested as a very useful deterrent, as well as parking in a visible place.

Finally, PS informed everyone that there is soon expected to be an increase in recruitment of special constables.

Any Other Business:

JR mentioned the Free Press Business Awards and suggested that members look at page 6 of the paper for more details and differing categories.

Next Members' Meeting: Tuesday 7th September, 5.30pm for a prompt 5.45pm start at Broad Street Business Centre.