



Spalding & District Area Members' Meeting

Tuesday 7th September 2010

Broad Street Business Centre, Spalding

Meeting Summary Notes

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 26th 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 30th 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 the police representative, did the arrival of PCSOs mean fewer police on the beat. She 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 11th 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 2nd November, 5.30pm for a prompt 5.45pm start at Broad Street Business Centre.