



## Spalding & District Area Members Meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Broad Street Business Centre, Spalding.

### Meeting Summary Notes

#### 1. President's Report

The President opened the meeting by wishing all members a happy New Year. He commented on the success of the Christmas event, despite adverse weather conditions, and thanked Darryl Simpson, as Chamber coordinator, for the time and effort that had gone into making it so.

The President advised the meeting that there had been four requests from members to join the Area Council from Simon Clarke (Spalding Water Taxi Company), Michelle Morley (Spalding Energy Co – Intergen), Peter Smeeton (Moor Destinations Ltd (The Butterfly & Wildlife Park)) and Nick Richer (George Adams). Members were asked if they were happy with their inclusion and they were all unanimously supported.

The President had emailed Garry Porter (Leader SHDC) about the lack of salt bins in the town centre and Mr Porter had passed the request onto Cllr William Webb (LCC), but sadly the response had been this would not be possible for this year. The issues currently were: scoring system for bins, high cost of refilling, resources in short supply. Chamber will continue to push for greater capacity next financial year. The meeting did feel though that the town centre did cope better this year. It became evident that businesses themselves were doing more, and Phil Hall indicated that he had personally salted a wide area over one night. The group thanked him for his efforts.

#### 2. Partnership Updates

##### *a. CRASH - Inspector Paul Timmins (Sector inspector and Chairman of CRASH) and Barry Inman (Coordinator)*

The Inspector informed the meeting that CRASH is a partnership body looking at shop lifting, damage and anti-social behaviour. It operates in a non-profit way with businesses making contributions. Membership provides a radio link and direct contact to the police via cctv monitoring.

It was advised not to tackle offenders in store, but to get a description, note exiting direction of travel or if a vehicle is involved. CRASH give enhanced guidelines and members have access to this information.

The scheme has been operating in Spalding for just over four years. It currently has 24 business members.

The current cost is £100 per year plus £6.50 per week for the radio, invoiced six monthly or quarterly.

Incident report forms filled in and co-ordinated by Barry Inman; currently there are 9 banning orders in place via CRASH. Recorded crime figures for 2008 show shop theft = 306, in 2009 they reduced to 214. This is reflected in an increase in members of CRASH. In comparison, Holbeach had 6 incidents in 2008 and 190 in 2009. In Spalding, violence to people in 2008 constituted 295 assaults and 216 incidents in 2009, showing again the effects from CRASH.

Currently, there are some issues with monitoring cctv and coverage; the group will be working with pubs to look at a door watch scheme shortly and also working with the central Chamber team to look at costs.

Contact details are:

Telephone Number  
01775719515  
07969323454 (mobile)

Email Address  
[info@crashspalding.co.uk](mailto:info@crashspalding.co.uk)

Address  
CRASH Business Crime Office,  
Spalding police station, Westlode Street

Or website [www.crashspalding.co.uk](http://www.crashspalding.co.uk)

##### *b) Red Lion St*

Tour offered to look around the new site. They will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of February.

All Chamber members are welcome, but asked to let Rachel Mooney know they will be attending along with the preferred date. ([rachel.mooney@lincs-chamber.co.uk](mailto:rachel.mooney@lincs-chamber.co.uk)). Groups are limited to 10 per evening starting at 6.00pm.

### **C) Highways report**

The meeting was grateful to receive a comprehensive and forward looking list of proposed traffic issues. Of major concern from the list were the works to Pinchbeck Road/Woolram Wygate from the 27<sup>th</sup> of Feb onwards. In addition, members were aware that from Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, Red Lion Street enhancements were starting. Actual improvement works are due to start the following week and expected that the enhancements will take eight weeks to complete. Members did express concerns about removal of existing cobbles and replacing them, rather than refurbishing the cobbles that were already there.

### **3. Security - Pete Williams**

Pete was unable to attend the meeting, but most of this was covered under CRASH above.

### **4. Events**

#### ***Christmas Super Saturday Feedback - Darryl Simpson & Jan Whitbourn***

Feedback:

- There was no need for a snow machine at the Saturday switch on, the weather intervened, which additionally impacted on traders as there were a lot of no shows due to the conditions.
- Credit to Adam Patman & the Tulip team, they kept things going until the lights' switch on.
- Because of the weather, visitors left earlier. Traders did report a better trading day.
- The Crescent event was good and the ambition will be to pull both events together in 2011. The 12<sup>th</sup> December event was well attended at certain times. It had been strategically organised for more people to attend including churches choirs who also brought ancillary visitors with them. Road closure worked well. It clashed with Holbeach and Stamford celebrations this year, but will look not to clash in future.
- Consideration given to 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011 for this year's Joint Christmas event. The plans for this year are to make a weekend event across the town covering the whole weekend.
- Next Monday, further discussions at the meeting at Crescent Traders and more information will be passed back to Chamber members at our next meeting.
- In summary, it was felt there was good community involvement in the last events and this could be built upon this year.

### **5. Media and Publicity - Tony Wright**

***Forthcoming Speed-Networking Event 17<sup>th</sup> March***; looking to have a St Patrick's day theme. Feedback from the last event will be used to improve it, with a reduction in time per person to 1 minute speaking and strict rotation when the whistle blows. It was also noted that the bowling, whilst put on at short notice, had been seen as great fun by those who attended.

### **6. Tourism/Funding issues - David Norton**

- The future of Visit Lincolnshire looked uncertain going forwards. Concerns were raised about how a county web presence could be maintained, and relationships with Visit Britain and production of brochures/visitor guides.
  - SHDC progressing with their visitor guide 2011, regardless of the above issues.
- Funding opportunities – vintage bus:
  - Further positive talks had been held with Simon Clarke (Spalding Water Taxi Company).
  - Pete Williams had galvanised financial support of around £35k worth of business promises within 2 days, but a bus that was up for auction was recently sold for a higher amount.
  - The Area Council will now talk to Bruce Wakelin at the next council meeting to move things forward with potential funding support.
  - Baytree now interested in joining the group.
  - The next step will be to create a business plan, and it is hoped to get something running by September this year.
  - The route may have to look at and exactly when it runs - weekends and peak times at the start.
  - Need also to consider more events for Spalding on a Sunday to have a reason for visitors to make the journey.

### **7. Representation & Lobbying - Simon Burton**

Simon was attending the Town Forum and SHDC Executive meeting, therefore was unable to attend this meeting. He will update members at the next full meeting

### **8. Membership - Phil Hall**

Phil reported that Christmas had rather taken precedence and a concerted effort was now required to attract new members. Currently membership numbers stand at 60.

### **9. Any other business**

SHDC budget consultation - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January, David Norton, Michelle Morley and Jan Whitbourn will be attending on behalf of the Chamber.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 1st March 2011, 5.30pm for prompt 5.45pm start at Broad Street Business Centre.