



## Spalding & District Area Members' Meeting

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013, Broad Street Business Centre, Spalding

### Meeting Notes

#### Members (signed in)

Phil Scarlett, President (The Edge Consultancy); David Norton, Vice-President (Springfields Horticultural Society); Gavin Allmand (Hills Dept. Store); Chris Carter (Tulip Radio); Matt Clark (ACTIV); Harry Drury (WLYH); Nic Horsley (WF Security Solutions); Lorna Howitt (SHTG); Anthony & Thomas Howling (Fun Junction); Catherine McGregor (Maples); Michelle Morley (Spalding Energy); Susan Penfold (House of Flowers); Nick Richer (Geo. Adams); Jason Rooke (Rooke's Pet Products); John & Robyn Sinclair (REM Marketing); Paul Turnell (Roythornes); Robert West (Spalding Civic Society); Jan Whitbourn (Tulip Radio).

#### 1. President's Welcome

The President welcomed members, prospective new members and guests.

#### 2. Introductions & Apologies

- Guests & Visitors:  
Carla George – BBC Radio Lincolnshire  
Tracey Sweetland – Lincs. Free Press  
Steve Grimston – GTS Security
- Apologies:  
Simon Beardsley; Julie Grant; Terry Moore; Philip Pell; Mark Ulyett.

#### 3. Approval of the Notes of the Members' Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012

The Notes of the Member's Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November were approved.

#### 4. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

#### 5. President's Report

The President updated Members on the following:

- Spalding Town CCTV – current system only supported financially by SHDC until April 2013. Task Group meeting resulted in proposition that Chamber could take over management of the system and recruit the volunteers. System would be reduced to 10-12 cameras and the control room would remain in the police station. General discussion concluded that CCTV was a useful deterrent against crime and anti-social behaviour. Matt Clark commented that the night-time economy also needed to be part of any future proposals, and that a joined-up approach (as in Boston), using Night Wardens, Street Pastors and CCTV, combined with a quick and positive police response, was required in Spalding. The President confirmed that discussions with SHDC about funding beyond April would continue through the Task Group. There was also a possibility that the new Police Commissioner may propose a county-wide CCTV solution.
- Shop-Watch – the President confirmed the transfer of the Spalding scheme to Chamber had gone well and that the new Management Committee had had its first meeting. Harry Drury reported on the possibility of up to 15 businesses in Holbeach may wish to join the scheme. He also updated the meeting on the Holbeach Town Forum, and the possibility that the group may be interested in joining Chamber in the future. He was actively pursuing a number of initiatives on their behalf to demonstrate the value of having their Forum affiliated to Chamber.

- Flower Parade/Food Festival – with the future of both these events now in doubt, the President had organised a meeting with the main stakeholders, including LCC, SHDC and Boston College on 18<sup>th</sup> January, to be chaired by John Hayes MP. Discussion would be about the importance of the events to the local community, their economic value as visitor attractions and the fact that they provided the town with its own special identity. Ideas for keeping them going, either in their current format or as “new events” would also be considered, as well as the possible opportunities for continued funding.
- Spalding in Bloom – a new group has been formed to plan this year’s planting campaign and also to consider other ideas for improving the appearance of the town. Interested volunteers should attend the meeting to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- Economic Development Workshop – Chamber Council members would be joining the SHDC Economic Development Team at a workshop on 22 January to discuss prioritising projects which would help improve the economic activity in the district and also enhance the attractiveness of Spalding Town for residents and visitors.
- Customer Service Forum – the President urged everyone to support the initiative by Boston College aimed at improving customer service attitudes across all business sectors. Fliers were available for members to take away and display.

## **6. Town Centre Matters**

a) 2012 Christmas Festival – everyone involved agreed the day had gone well and the President thanked Jan Whitbourn for organising the activities and events. Discussions about a 2013 Festival included the following points:

- Decide if the event was worthwhile – why are we doing it and who is it for? Initially to improve footfall in the town, but also now community involvement (Schools Carol Competition).
- Move the day from Saturday to avoid the clash with the market (but would schools attend?). Consult market traders now.
- Lights to go on earlier – possibly as a separate event.
- Historically crowds used to attend and bring children to see the “real” Santa arrive from the station. Can this be re-created with the help of the Santa from Baytree?
- Review the Boston event – 3 day Festival, market, entertainment, late night opening, cavalcade etc.
- Attract new groups and have singing around the Christmas tree every weekend in December.

It was agreed that Chamber should still plan to hold an event and that all possibilities should be considered so that a proposal could be discussed at the next meeting to gauge support (or otherwise).

b) Christmas Lights – All agreed the lights had been a great success with many positive comments from residents and visitors. Some complaints had been received about the tulip “illuminations” along the riverbank, which may have to be taken down. The President would be reporting to the Town Forum and also suggesting that additional lights should be considered for 2013.

## **7. S106 Projects Proposals**

The President confirmed that the previous proposal for the recruitment of a Town Centre Manager now had the endorsement of the Spalding Civic Society. Robert West (Civic Society) outlined the priorities for the Society and agreed that both the Chamber and the Society should support the proposal to apply to SHDC for s106 funds to recruit someone for the role.

Other priority projects would be discussed at the Economic Development Workshop.

## **8. Forum Updates & Other Reports**

a) Town Centre Retailers Forum: No further update.

- b) Tourism Forum: 2013 Visitor Guide would be available by the beginning of March. David Norton confirmed that the opportunity to create a South Lincolnshire tourism organisation was still being progressed. Also, the future of the visitspalding website was being reviewed.
- c) Bus Stop Project: Still awaiting approval from Hills.
- d) Logistics Forum: Meeting held in December with Network Rail on the implications and opportunities likely to come from the upgrade of the line between Peterborough and Grantham. Network Rail would be invited to a future Chamber meeting to discuss possible improvements to passenger services to Spalding.

#### 9. Any Other Business

The President confirmed that there had been no further information regarding the Holland Market development plans.

Paul Turnell reminded members that they were welcome to attend the next Business Club breakfast meeting being held at Punch Bowl on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

The President then thanked everyone for attending and for their comments and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

#### **Future Meeting Dates:**

- **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March:** Chamber Council Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April:** Chamber Council Meeting with SHDC Portfolio Holders – Council Offices – 6.00pm
- **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April:** Chamber Council Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May:** Members' Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May:** Chamber Council Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June:** Chamber Council Meeting – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm
- **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** Spalding Area Chamber AGM – Broad Street Business Centre – 5.45pm