

Droitwich Spa High Street Regeneration Group Meeting: 23rd November 2006

Meeting Details	
Date / Time:	Thursday 23 rd November 2006
Venue:	Council Chamber, Droitwich Spa Town Council, St. Richard's House

Present		
Name	Organisation	Ref
Mrs Tracy Bodley	Droitwich Spa Town Council (DSTC)	TB
Mr Joe Ling	Wychavon District Council	JL
Ms Chris Bowers	Droitwich Spa Civic Society / Droitwich Spa History & Archaeological Soc (DSHAS)	CBw
Cllr Mr Roy Seabourne	Droitwich Spa Town Council (DSTC)	RS
Cllr Mr Don Lawley	Droitwich Spa Town Council (DSTC)	DSL
Cllr Mrs Pam Davey	Wychavon District Council	PD
Mr Dave Lavender	Worcestershire County Council (Highways)	DL
Minutes		
Mrs Lorraine Pitt	Droitwich Spa Town Council (DSTC)	LP
Apologies		
Caroline Dawson	Waitrose	CD
Jim Burgin	Wychavon D.C	JB
Frank Hazzard	Droitwich Spa Civic Society	FH
Cllr Mrs Janet Clarke	Droitwich Spa Town Council (DSTC)	JC
Denuka Jones	Butterfingers Cookshop	DJ
Doug Chaplin	Droitwich Team Ministry	DC
Mike Hayzelden	Droitwich Spa Civic Society	MH
Eve Freer	Droitwich Spa Older People's Forum	EF
Roger Collins	Droitwich Spa History & Archaeological Soc (DSHAS)	RC

General	
Items	Action
1	Actions Arising from Last Meeting(s) JL confirmed that Traders have met with TB and we should hopefully see permanent representation in future meetings.
1.1	Minutes & matters arising from last meeting JL advised that he was unable to distribute the Minutes of the last Meeting but will forward them as soon as possible.
1.2	Welcome to Dave Lavender (Highways) JL welcomed DL to the meeting.
1.3	Accessibility Action JL explained that both himself and DL walked around the Town this morning discussing accessibility and roadways which they will report on later on in the meeting.
2	Election of Chair: JL stated that we need to elect an Interim Chair and a full election should take place at the next Meeting when there are more Committee Members to vote. PD put forward DSL and all agreed. DSL asked if everyone could meet for coffee at 9.50am so that the
	All

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	Meeting is ready to start promptly at 10.00am. JL asked if St Richards House should be kept as the venue for the meetings, everyone agreed.	
Heritage and Other Works		
3	Events:	
3.1	<p>French Market (de brief)</p> <p>DSL thought that the event was fantastic but not as large as it had been before. JL stated that the French Market has asked to return next year – plans are in train for a one day event in conjunction with a one day market (see 3.3). RS/PD expressed disappointment that there wasn't a French cheese stall. TB has received an e-mail asking if we are interested in Belgium/Worldwide Markets including stallholders dressing up in native costumes. PD stated that if we do have a Belgium Market then the public would expect Belgium chocolates to be on sale. JL stated that the French Market had only been arranged in 4 weeks and he has already arranged for Crepes/French Bread / cheese stalls to be included in the future.</p>	JL to liase with French Market
3.2	<p>Christmas Festivities – Friday 8th December 2006</p> <p>JL has been contacted by a Fine Foods Consultant for next years Salt Day and they are also being used on Friday 8th December for the Christmas Festivities. TB distributed posters and an Events Timetable. TB said that she is short of Stewards on the day and has asked for volunteers in the local newspaper. TB has changed the timings of the road closures to 9.00am until 11.00pm. DSL said that road barriers appear to be the most effective method. DL stated that we do not have any authority to stop cars by hand therefore barriers would be the better option. JL advised that arrangements had already been made re barriers and physical road closures.</p>	N/A

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3.3	<p>Forthcoming Events – Classic Car Rally, St Richards Day, Salt Day II</p> <p>It was asked if the date for the above still clashed with the Mayor's Ball, it was confirmed that this was the case. It was decided that the Mayor's Ball should be given priority and the Town Council should only give £200 for road closures and leave all other organisation and administration to the two organisers. It was confirmed that at present 40 vehicles are interested in attending the event; this may prove to be too many for the High Street. PD said that there may be a problem with parking in the Town for visitors to the event. RS said that it is too much for TB to be expected to lead this event. JL said that it is a High Street promoting event which is why he and TB has become involved. RS said there is a limit to which Town Council staff should be expected to help and it shouldn't be assumed that Town Council should support every event. DSL said that it should go back to the Council for a decision. CB asked by exactly does "Partnership" mean, as we have to consider insurance of the cars, we need to be clear on the terminology. RS said that we should keep the event at arms length. DL also mentioned that whoever applies for a road closure takes responsibility for the event.</p> <p>Salt Day II has provisionally been arranged for Saturday 15th September 2007. A theme of "Fine British Foods" is being developed – but with the local heritage element maintained, specifically with regards to the Tower Hill brine well. There are also plans for a St Richards Festival in May 07 (since confirmed as Sunday 13th May 2007). Doug Chaplin is getting involved with the event on behalf of the churches in the town – with other elements, e.g. a Craft Fair, well dressing to be confirmed. The area being concentrated on will be Vines Park and the Saltbarrow Market. PD added that there are some works taking place in Vines Park so we must remember to plan around this.</p>	<p>Town Council to resolve issues re Classic Car Rally</p> <p>JL / TB, Events Group to develop St Richard's 'event' and Salt Day / Festival II</p>
4	Markets	
4.1	<p>Saturday Charter Market – Update</p> <p>The Town now has an official "Charter Market" taking place every Saturday. JL is trying to get the Traders to run the Market themselves and to encourage more stallholders. PD suggested a peppercorn rent to be paid to the Town Council. JL advised that discussions had already taken place between WDC and the TC re. this, and it is planned that in the New Year an agreement will be drawn up between Wychavon and the Town Council regarding the Charter Market. PD said that local businesses, farms etc could be encouraged to have a stall to sell their produce.</p>	<p>JL / TC to draw up agreement re Charter Market</p>

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4.2	<p>Farmers Market</p> <p>JL stated that it is intended that this should mainly take place on Saltbarrow Market, but that the current market (first Saturday of the month) takes place on Victoria Square – and that negotiations with Worcestershire Farmers Markets and Country Markets were ongoing. TB stated that it was thought that the Market is still using DSTC electricity. DL said that 240 volts should not be used in public places only 110 volt; DSL asked if this could be looked into further.</p>	
5	<p>Trader Involvement / Traders Group</p> <p>TB attended the Traders Meeting 17th November 2006 to discuss the Christmas Festivities mainly. The Traders were fairly happy with the plans and several were keen to have stalls in the High Street. TB explained that the shops could stay open later if they wished as hopefully they would get more trade with the public in the area. DSL asked if he could attend the next Traders meeting; it was decided that the Traders should be allowed to speak for the first ½ hour as some of the Traders complained that they had to shut up their shop to attend the meeting. DSL suggested the Town Council contact BBC Midlands Today to advertise the event on their programme or BBC Wood Norton for any of their trainee camera crew. CB suggested contacting Shefali to broadcast her lunchtime weather report.</p>	<p>DSL to be invited to next Traders Meeting</p> <p>TB to liase with media re promotion of Christmas event</p>

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6	<p>Accessibility (High Street Accessibility Project Proposal) DL & JL walked around the Town this morning to see if there are any quick fixes which can be done. DL stated that the main problem is the different floor levels in the High Street making it difficult for the shops to be altered to accommodate the disabled. It was suggested to look at the rear of the shops if they could be altered for the disabled to gain access.</p> <p>There is no disabled parking in the High Street, he suggested allocating 3 bays at the top of the Street. DL noticed that the Taxi rank bays had not been enforced and we need to get these bays cleared. DL commented that he followed a young mother with a pushchair from the long stay car park and noticed that there were no dropped kerbs; this made it difficult for her to negotiate the roads with the pushchair.</p> <p>DL stated that the Forum has money available for dropped kerbs and we also need to look at disabled routes into the Town. PD commented that the Tower Hill lighting by Whittington House is not sufficient. DL suggested that we need to go through the Police stating that it could be a potential security issue. PD said that this needs to be a priority.</p> <p>It was decided that a Group needs to be formed with DSL/Town Council/Civic Society/Age Concern/SPIN, JL will help set up the group but he will not be able to attend the meetings. It was suggested that some of the High Street Shop Front Improvements monies be predicated towards the accessibility improvements on the same 50-50 basis as the wider scheme (possibly £2,500 of the annual £15,000).</p> <p>DSL suggested that we put costings together first. PD would also like to be included in the Group. PD mentioned that the One Stop Shop have very heavy doors which has proven very difficult to open for the disabled and the elderly, an automatic opening button would be an ideal solution. DL asked if Shopmobility had been looked into, it has been in the past but it may be a good idea to look into it again. It was suggested that Older People Forum and DIAL should be written to to see if they are interested in getting involved.</p>	<p>Taxi Rank Bays to be cleared</p> <p>Contact Forum re. Funds for dropped kerbs</p> <p>Contact Police re. lighting</p> <p>Shopmobility to be looked into again</p>
7	Surfacing and Traffic Management	
7.1	<p>Traffic Order Consultation It was stated that the Police are not prepared to enforce the High Street closure on Saturdays. DL said that electronic bollards may be an option but they can cost between £30 - £40,000.00. DSL will speak to Sgt Steve Brooker at the Police Station to see if he can attend the Group so that questions can be put to him.</p>	<p>DSL to speak to Police</p>

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7.2	Road Surfacing	
8	<p>High Street Smell (Update) DL had a meeting with Severn Trent who are going to carry out another survey. There are problems on the corner and a broken pipe in the Park. A piece of land is being given up to enable a larger tank to be installed. DL stated that Severn Trent should have a 5 year rolling programme. PD said that they should look at the problems in Hanbury Road at the same time.</p>	
9	<p>High Street Capital Works (Feedback from Work Group) The Civic Society/Contractors/JL have met with the Chinese Restaurant and are finalising the specifications to this unit and to Brown and Fincher. Signature of works agreement for works to Star Yard imminent. Final phase of works to Merry Go Round pending meeting with landlord re specification of works. No works would commence on site til March 2007 at the earliest, weather permitting, but it was still the plan to allocate the funding before the end of March 2007. JL to liase with the tenants of Tenby House and Nos 4-8, with a possible view to including these in the programme. Plans are in development re the steps to St Andrews Church garden entrance – with possible match funding from the Church of England – to improve the general street scene. On another note, Rev Doug Chaplin has offered the use of the Church for local band practice or performance – which is being looked into in partnership with the High School and WDC Community Development.</p>	JL / Civic Society to feed back to next meeting
Other Issues / Matters Arising		
	Regarding Nellie Copson's shop front – JL has spoken to Nellie Copson re this on a number of occasions, but it was suggested that it may be better coming from the Traders directly.	Traders to approach Nellie Copson
10	Dates of following meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 25th January 2007 @ 10.00am - Council Chamber, St Richards House • Thursday 8th March 2007 @ 10.00am 12 October 2006, Council Chamber, St. Richard's House • Thursday 19th April 2007 @ 10.00am – Council Chamber, St. Richard's House <p>The meeting concluded at 12.00noon</p>	N/A