

Knaresborough Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

Committee Meeting @ The Commercial Hotel) On 07/07/2016 @18.30

Attending -Steve Tegg (ST), Tracey Kingston White (TKW). Chris Richardson (CR), Alison Mathews(AM), Phil Kilner (PK), Gareth Chapman (GC),Daniel Markie(DM),Charlotte Gale (CG),Anj Riggs(AR),Tim,

Apologies- Neil Leonard(NL), Melissa Monsey (MM),Sue Mcqueen,

Resignation -Jade Clarke.

Guest speaker- Councillor David Goode (CDG).

CR introduced Cllr Goode who gave a presentation on The Knaresborough Development Plan Programme.

CDG is the chair of the Programmes working group.

The working group includes local councillors,local residents and business community representatives,and local developers .

There is at present no Chamber rep but this is encouraged.

The Neighbourhood (NDP) was born out of the Localism Act of 2011 which required local authorities to have statutory planning commitments.

The NDP requires the developers to consult with locals, other elements covered are the community right to build ,community challenge and assets/community value.

Harrogate is proposing potential development sites and the Knaresborough are able to look into the proposals. Knaresborough is linked to the Harrogate plan,and the sites may not impact on Greenbelt land.

The present NDP ends in 2018.

Plans will include provision of housing,mix of housing types band design,size and affordability,it will address vacant and derelict residential and commercial buildings.NDP will encourage a strong local economy element,open space protection, important buildings protection.

NDP will deliver a vision for Knaresborough of a safe and rewarding environment for people to live, and work in and to visit.

The project has been running for 3 years so far, the average time for a local development plan is 3 - 4 years depending on the number of consultants involved.Knaresborough has funding for 1 consultant , the remainder of the working party are amateurs.

To date there have been 2 public consultations - the first to find out what the residents wanted and the second to check that the NDP was addressing the initial assessment correctly.

The NDP will need to be checked and signed off by the Planning inspector and it will then become a legal document and requirement which developers must adhere to.

Harrogate will shortly publish which sites they think will be suitable for development .

There are 5 sub groups of the working party with interests in - Housing,Character Areas(there are 8 SSI's-Sites of scientific interest), Town Centre economy,Countryside and Green spaces.

NDP want to keep the Town centre accessible and to establish it as a destination town for niche area shopping.

It is important to designate green spaces and green belt to restrict development in these areas.Abbey Rd had no such designation which is why the recent planning application had to be accepted.

Pre assessment stage due October 2016 and referendum expected Spring 2017 where if accepted by the majority the plan may be in place until 2036.

CDG would like to make further presentations to Chamber and would encourage more members to attend.

Further information on www.knaresboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/Core/Knaresborough-TC/pages/Neighbourhood_Development_Plan_2_aspt

GC queried on the possibilities of reverse planning permission from retail to residential. How much flexibility will there be. We are all concerned with the number of empty, dilapidated empty premises, with difficult to trace landlords.

CDH agreed we want to improve shop fronts and need a better cared for High St appearance.

PK commented on short term lets being difficult due to business rates, and it being more beneficial for the landlords to keep the premises empty. Can we put social responsibilities on landlords?

CDG - There is provision in the NDP for empty premises.

CDG commented that the plan requires aspirational projects and the working group would like proposals for these.

AM commented on the poor placing of the pedestrian crossing in the High St, another is needed lower down the High St.

Various members commented on parking issues and hoped the NDP will address these problems.

Next NDP meeting is on 12/07/16 at Aspin Park School, all welcome.

Johnny Haines is giving a talk for Renaissance Knaresborough on Bishopthorpe Rd shops, York at Henshaws 20/07/16 @7pm.

Thank you to CDG from all of Chamber for an interesting and very useful talk.

1. Treasures report- NL absent but nothing to report

2.

2. Membership update - MM absent (holiday)

3. Social sec report.

AM /AR Quiz night at the Cross Keys was very well attended (about 60), Next time there will be a charge for members (reduced rate), it was free at this event. Small profit £30.00.

MM wants to host a Race night at The George and Dragon early August (? 10/08/16).

Summer BBQ on 11/09/16 at Carriages.

Chamber to nominate a charity for raffle proceeds, community based - maybe ORB, AM, AR will investigate this. Last year funds raised for Forest School Mini bus.

Big thanks to AM and AR for a great quiz night.

Summer BBQ will be a fund raising event, CR will kindly donate any extra profit to the named charity as well.

4. Xmas Lights.

CR attended recent meeting with Lions, Rotary, a few councillors (Holt and Willoughbys, Hannah Gostlow). Bright Friday going ahead, (Friday Nov 25th) enthusiastic support for this idea of Hannahs.

There will be a new tender for the Xmas lights this year.

Chamber to encourage retail members to open late that night - need to support the event on behalf of the town. committee will be required to provide marshals (support group required for this task - Daniel Markey).

NL will need to check with our insurance if we have the correct public liability insurance for this.

Next Xmas lights meeting is 20/07/16 @ 17.10. CR unable to attend - AR or Tim have volunteered to attend.

5. Xmas Market - week after Bright Friday (3rd Dec).

Chamber need to provide a new rep after Maurice and Paul step down. Next meeting at Lavender Tea Rooms 24/08/16.

Selling the stalls is usually Chamber's responsibility - we need to convince local retailers that the market can improve their footfall too - how do we achieve this?

Chamber need to provide marshals (support group role).

We need to liaise and link up with the Xmas Tree Festival.

CG ,AM and CR will attend the next meeting.

Discussion on how we can improve the market for next year - bring back the Edwardian Theme(stall hire previously half price if retailer dressed up), contact "better" stalls - ,check out the stalls at Harrogate xmas market.We need more retail based stalls and less food outlets.

Chamber are not making use of the free stall available at the market.

Cost of stalls usually £190. (£250 food based) for 2 days.

We need to invite Xmas Market committee rep to attend Chamber meeting and discuss ways to improve future markets.

6.Social Media -Tim has nothing to report so far.He requests any news from members to put on twitter etc.

Tim to liaise with GC to have links to website and to avoid duplication of roles.

7. IT - GC has sent copies of the new logo to all(?) -have we seen it? We need to formally accept this - all very pleased to accept the lovely new logo (thanks GC).See the logo on [Knaresborough chamber.org](http://Knaresboroughchamber.org).

New web site has an events section,what we do,and there will be more to follow,contact GC with any ideas.

AM suggests new Chamber logo stickers for shop fronts,also for letterheads, retailer' s websites. Website will eventually have private section for members only.

Tim asks -can we have QR code on the new logo which can link to website? GC - yes.

PK - has been looking at ways to improve and simplify communication -emails too numerous and therefore unread.

Proposes we use SLACK which is a free online service and easy to use (thankfully).

Big thank you to PK and GC for all their IT input and research.

8. June minutes accepted by committee , GC will publish the on the website.

9.Town maps, few more advertisers required ,Lucy Cole is hired to do this. CG has sent photos for the maps.

AOB.

1.Chamber need a representative to attend NDP meetings. No one able to commit .CDG agreed to email any information to PK who will then circulate to Chamber members.

2.CG will contact Harrogate Chamber and attend meetings as our (KCOT&C) representative ,ST will forward CR's details and make initial introductions.

3 New social sec - due to Jade resigning we need a replacement. AM will approach Karen Haas. Many thanks to Jade for all her hard work and contributions Chamber.

4. We need to update our members pack - for present and new members.CG has offered to look into this.

5. AM wondered why there were very few coach parties visiting Knaresborough now.Tim will google lists of coach owners - to be discussed at next meeting (put on agenda).

6. GC - we need a Chamber presence on Knaresborough Facebook.

9.Cllr Goode is happy to circulate Chamber news to council - we will need to forward minutes and news to him. Also James Monaghan can lease.

10 . Trading Standards issues - AM asks does Chamber have any contacts or responsibilities ? If we suspect potential problems we should contact Trading Standards.

11. Parking issues - rear of Frazer Theatre - various residents report inappropriate wardens - possibly imitating council wardens. May put people off from coming to town. ST suggests we invite David Crosthwaite from the theatre to discuss matters. ST thinks we have an acquired right since there were no parking restrictions here for many years. The land is owned by the Theatre and they sub contract parking matters to an out of town (Bradford based company). Theatre do not receive any of the income from the parking fines. 3 years ago we had discussed possibility of parking permits to generate an income for the theatre and relieve parking pressures in the town centre. More discussion about parking on narrow residential streets on the edge of town. More official parking required.

Parking to be put on next months agenda,

Next meeting 3rd August 2016.usual time and venue.

Thank you for your patience with the delayed minutes!
Tracey,
Kingston White Opticians.