

Clay Cross Town Centre Group

Minutes of the last meeting held

Tuesday 10th of January 2017 at the Batemans Mill Hotel

Attendees

Andrew King - Lilleker & King (AK) Martin Roberts – Group Member and promotion officer (MR), Michelle Ball – Tesco store manager (MB) Nicole Murtagh – Tesco Community Champion (NM), Rev Richard Law – Vicar of St Bartholomew’s and St Barnabas (RL), Rev. Ann Anderson – CX Methodist Church (AA), Joan Spray – CX Methodist Church and Community garden (JS), David Spray - CX Methodist Church and Community garden (DS), Pru Williams – Catholic Church Clay X (PW), Barbara Parker – Local resident (BP), Bryan Harrison – NEDDC (BH), Suzanne Smith – Elvaston Therapy and Silver Web Centre (SSm)

1. Apologies Jade Hendon – Bateman’s Mill Hotel (JH), Diana Yates - Posh Fitness & Coffee Bar (DY), Stephen Toon – S Toon Hearing Centre , Cheryle Berry – Clay X Rotary (CB), Vanessa Palmer – Tesco Service Manager (VP), Kerry Roe – I want Pet Foods (KR), Angela Gambetta – Clay X Post Office (AG), Warren Makinson – CX Rotary (WM), Steve Smart – St Barnabas Centre (SteveS),

Minutes of the last meeting on 8 November 2016 had been circulated previously by email and in the absence of any comments or requested alterations were signed by AK as a true record.

Matters Arising No matters arising that were not listed on the agenda

MR advised the meeting of the very sad news that group member Mr Keith Linathan of the Card Shop on Market Street had recently passed away and a short period of silence was observed by the meeting as we remembered Keith and then extended our condolences to his family and friends .

2. New Members Joining AK advised there had been two further members joining since the last meeting; Jennifer Holmes who runs a ‘The Beauty Bar’ in Crossways Shopping Centre at 3 Eyre Street and Carla Marie Fletcher who runs Sapphire of the Stars at the Vintage Community 20B High Street. MR advised that there are some further possible joiners to whom he has promoted membership of the group.

3. Newsletter, Website update and Facebook – It was agreed to defer the next Newsletter until the April /May edition which means submitting copy to the Wings magazine by mid March. It was noted that Easter falls in the middle of April this year and the increased retail activity generally created would make this an ideal opportunity to publish the next Newsletter and member promotion.

The website continues to be kept up to date and currently has the full report of our Christmas Celebration Event as written by MR. Facebook is also very active and has proved, particularly in the run up to the December Celebration event, to be a valuable means of contributing to raising awareness of the group’s activities.

4. Report on financial position AK advised that we have approximately £1,815 of group funds in hand and that we were in a position to finance the next Wings Newsletter which costs approximately £900 inclusive of 1000 Newsletter run-ons and their distribution.

5. Report on project activity. Clay Cross has got Talent – This event was organised by group member Cheryle Berry of the Clay Cross Rotary Club who has had to send apologies to tonight's meeting and therefore NM who was one of the judges gave us a report on the event telling us that there were 13 acts including a number of singers, an acrobat and various players of musical instruments who all performed to a high standard and as a result it had been difficult for the judges to reach a decision on who should be the overall winners.

Clay Cross Celebration Event 1 December- AA said there were around 235 people in the Methodist Church for the carol service which started the evening and featured the children's choir from Sharley Park school, accompanied by Ashover Brass band and the resident Methodist Church organist, along with carols from the Methodist ladies singing group. It was noted by MR that the service had run seamlessly throughout its 30 minute duration and thanked the two ministers AA and RL for their efforts in achieving a very successful start to the evening.

RL reported a good atmosphere following the service which was maintained throughout the flow of carol singing events which took place in the town from the Methodist Church start to the conclusion at Tesco. BP and PW both remarked on enjoying the procession of children with candles at the end of the service and of the considerable number of people observed in Market Street who were enjoying the celebration. RL added that the ability to leave leaflets in the Tesco store in the run up to the event had undoubtedly been beneficial in promoting the evening to the general public. He also told us there had been considerable interest in the competition promoted by his church involving looking for the various nativity characters in local shop windows, and when he subsequently collected the characters back from the various traders they noted that the competition had generated a lot of interest by people looking in their shop windows.

MB reported that all the Craft stalls that had stood in the Tesco car park had been pleased with the evening and were all intending on returning for Christmas 2017 and NM passed over the sum of £30 to the treasurer which represented the donations received for complimentary hot drinks supplied at the event by Tesco. MB hopes to encourage even more stall holders this year and would like to see these connect the town right through from Tesco to the bus station with even more shops opening for the evening. MR thanked MB, NM and their team for taking a proactive lead with their store and the activities in the surrounding car park including the decorated American trucks, marching band and provision of food and drink. In response MB initiated a round of applause for MR who it was agreed by all had worked tirelessly to promote and co-ordinate what was undoubtedly a successful evening.

SSm asked in the light of this year's experience was there anything we should consider doing differently and MR said he would like to involve other community based organisations such as the local fire brigade and also try and obtain some pre event promotion via local radio. BH suggested the possibility of road closure for Market Street as he believed this would create a Market square effect and enable more stalls to stand in the town centre. BH was of the view that road closure for a few hours on one evening of the year was not an unreasonable aspiration for the group to consider. MR commented that he had spoken to people who had attended from Wingerworth and other surrounding districts who had very likely been made aware of the event by the group's leaflet promotion at 6 local schools as organised by DY. MR also told us that as a result of his involvement with the group he had recently been asked to give a presentation to a Co-op Group who were keen to hear about our group and how it had approached the recent projects it had undertaken. MR therefore gave a resume of the various achievements in the last 9 months being the 3 signage installations, the litter pick, pop up cinema and the celebration event.

6. Future Activities - Town centre CCTV AK reported that last week he had been invited to attend a street scene sub-committee meeting at the Clay Cross Parish Council which was attended by Mary

James, landlady of the Old English Pub on Market Street, 4 Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk and assistant Parish Clerk. The subject matter was reinstatement of the currently non-functioning CCTV system which was installed in the town in the early noughties and rather than repair would need complete replacement. The issue had been brought to the Parish Council's attention by Mary James (MJ) as a result of her involvement with the 'Pub Watch' organisation and her own experiences of crime incidents in the town for which a prosecution could very likely have been secured had a CCTV system existed in the public area outside her pub. MJ explained that there was a requirement for landlords to maintain a functioning CCTV system within their licensed premises but that without further coverage in the immediately surrounding outside area that this was detrimental to its overall effectiveness and resulting control of localised crime.

It was common ground between all participants at this Parish Council meeting that reinstatement of a properly functioning CCTV system throughout the town should be a priority, it was acknowledged that there were road safety issues in point also which could also be addressed if a system of surveillance and monitoring was created.

The Parish Council were supportive of the Clay Cross Town Centre Group as a recognised not for profit organisation becoming involved with this project and have suggested avenues of funding that we could pursue one of which was that provided by the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's office. AK therefore agreed to bring this matter up at the next CX TCG meeting to ascertain the members view point on this issue and whether they could help state the community's case for CCTV reinstatement to potential funder and be prepared to support the continued maintenance of the infrastructure should we be successful in securing initial financial backing.

There was a general feeling in the meeting that CCTV reinstatement would be desirable, DS mentioned the possibility of ongoing funding being available from any fines collected from crimes detected by CCTV, although it was observed by BH that we needed to fully establish the extent of the problem and ascertain if there were alternative ways of providing a solution. MR has therefore said that over the coming weeks he will create a short questionnaire for interested members of the community to give their view and will also visit local businesses to gauge their reaction to the proposal. MR felt it would be a useful exercise to discuss our particular safety concerns with the police and ask them to visit the area when incidents of anti social behaviour/crime were most likely to occur. The meeting agreed MR should pursue this line of enquiry and he agreed to report back to the group with his findings in due course. MR emphasised that if we are to take forward this research into the CCTV reinstatement we should like to see greater Parish Council participation in our group meetings so as to underline the overall community co-operation for this project.

Pop up Cinema – This item was deferred until the next meeting

7. Member information exchange - No further business to add at this point

8. Date and Time of next Meeting The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 February, being the second Tuesday in the month and will be held at Bateman's Mill Hotel with a 6pm start.