

Clay Cross Town Centre Group

Minutes of the last meeting held

Tuesday 14th of February 2017 at the Batemans Mill Hotel

Attendees

Andrew King - Lilleker & King (AK) Diana Yates - Posh Fitness & Coffee Bar (DY), Nicole Murtagh – Tesco Community Champion (NM), 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), Suzanne Smith – Elvaston Therapy and Silver Web Centre (SSm), Cheryle Berry – Clay X Rotary (CB), Warren Makinson – CX Rotary (WM), Steve Smart – St Barnabas Centre (SteveS), PC 2948 Walton (PcW), PCSO 4454 Shaw (PcS), Mary James - The Olde English Inn (MJ), Craig Murtagh – The Three Horseshoes (CM), David Hancock – Tupton Parish Council and NEDDC Council (DH), Ross Shipman – Liberal Democrats (RS), William Armitage – Ashover Parish Council and NEDDC Council (WA).

1. Apologies Jade Hendon – Bateman’s Mill Hotel (JH), Martin Roberts – Group Member and promotion officer (MR), Michelle Ball – Tesco store manager (MB) Stephen Toon – S Toon Hearing Centre , Rev. Ann Anderson – CX Methodist Church (AA), Angela Gambetta – Clay X Post Office (AG), G & J Hairstylists, Louise Manfredi – Smiths Creamland Ices (LM), Clay Cross Parish Council, Brian Wright – NEDDC Councillor Clay X North, Andy Watterson East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, Neil Burke – Smart PAT Testing (NB), Carla Marie Fletcher.

Minutes of the last meeting on 10 January 2017 had been circulated previously by email and subject to an amendment moved by David Spray recording the agreement that the £197.55 of left over funds we currently hold from the get growing project are to be passed to the Clay Cross Community Garden project adjacent to the Methodist Church, these were signed by AK as a true record.

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

2. Proposed CCTV reinstatement project AK summarised the current position by explaining that the existing camera system was no longer operational and that the security and related crime detection issue had been brought to his attention last year by Mary James (MJ) of the The Old English Inn who despite having CCTV coverage within her public house, pointed out that had the camera’s outside been operational then a number of incidents could have had a much better chance of being able to secure a prosecution. Earlier this year AK attended a Street Scene meeting at the Parish Council Offices along with MJ and it was common ground between all parties that efforts should be made to reinstate a working camera system as this would enhance security and help combat anti social behaviour. One of the major obstacles is funding the reinstatement and the Parish Council had identified the Police & Crime Commissioner’s office as a possible source although we understand funding for the current 2017 year has already been taken. The Parish Council were nonetheless supportive of the Town Centre Group taking this project forward given our position as a not for profit community group organisation.

AK further explained that he had last week spoken with Andy Watterson Business Crime Manager of the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce who had involvement with the previously installed Clay Cross system and subsequent efforts to keep it running and although unable to attend this evening’s meeting will attend our next meeting on 14 March. Mr Watterson went on to say that he would be

able to help with sourcing CCTV equipment as he was aware of the various suppliers in the market place. Martin Roberts, our group promotion officer, has already carried out a significant amount of research into what the reinstatement would entail and having visited the system currently operational in Grassmoor had been impressed by the system's functionality and the corresponding result of containing the level of crime in that area. AK then asked PC Walton (PcW) for her view of what was required from a CCTV system. PcW responded by saying the Grassmoor system was very good and made the point that positioning the cameras in well lit areas was important to ensure any images utilised as evidence were as clear as possible. PcW also said that without cameras it was very hard to catch an offender in an unoccupied street and went on to say that from their experience of crime within the town the police would be able to give guidance as to where it might be most appropriate to put cameras in order to have the greatest effect. Suzanne Smith (SSm) asked if there were any statistics to evidence the need for the cameras and MJ observed that it was now common knowledge that the cameras did not work which meant there was no deterrent effect. AK observed that there were incidents of speeding cars in Market Street and this was agreed by other Market Street Traders as being a problem. Councillor Armitage (WA) recounted his own experience of devising a scheme and obtaining funding for community projects which had seen the reinstatement of the public toilets in Ashover and took the view that the camera reinstatement project was achievable.

AK asked Councillor Hancock (DH) for his experience with CCTV in Tupton and he explained that the cameras were a mix of old and new and that the system was not ideal with the Grassmoor system being much better in his view. DH went on to say that ongoing maintenance for the Tupton system of around 10 cameras was £2,500 per annum. Ross Shipman (RS) considered that the Tesco Bags of help funding was appropriate for this proposed CCTV project and urged the group to put forward an application based on the need to protect the young people and elderly persons within the community.

DY said we should fundraise ourselves and was prepared to be a member of the fundraising sub-committee which would be dedicated to this project. Steve Smart (SteveS) commented that the technology to create a workable system was greatly improved from when the existing cameras were installed and that they were also more affordable. Craig Murtagh (CM) was supportive of this view and said he had his own camera system within his public house area which due to its capability had been viewed by the police also when following up an incident adjacent to his premises. CM was also supportive of the proposal that we should fundraise ourselves. PcW suggested that businesses at the industrial units could be approached for funding/sponsorship if their premises were also included in the camera coverage.

SSm said that she didn't have a feel for how bad the area was in Clay Cross crime wise and felt we needed to justify the spend against a cost benefit analysis. At this point it was generally agreed by other members of the meeting there was a need for cameras and the crime deterrent that would follow but that in order to progress matters we need a costing for a 'fit for purpose' system. Cheryle Berry (CB) offered the support of the Clay Cross Rotary Group in raising funds for the camera reinstatement and felt the project was most appropriate given that we as a group are striving to improve the image and perception of the town as a secure place to visit and move around in.

AK proposed we form a sub-committee to take the project forward and the following agreed to be part of this project group: PC Walton, PCSO Shaw, Cheryle Berry, Steve Smart, Mary James, Craig Murtagh, Councillor Hancock and Councillor Armitage. AK said that he and Martin Roberts would also join this sub-group.

At this point having had the CCTV discussion the Police, Mary James, Craig Murtagh and Diana Yates left the meeting.

3. New Members Joining NM advised there had been two further members joining since the last meeting; Do or Dye Hairdressers at the corner of Market Street and High Street and Indigo Beauty Salon off Market Street Mall

4. Newsletter, Website update and Facebook – It was noted that the next Newsletter would be the April /May edition which means submitting copy to the Wings magazine by mid March. AK requested that any member who had suitable material for the Newsletter lead article submit this to our chair Jade Hendon.

The website continues to be updated with minutes and agendas and Facebook is also very active and is useful in giving a real time update of group news as it happens.

5. Report on financial position AK advised that we have approximately £2,000 of group funds in hand and that we were in a position to fund the next Wings Newsletter which costs approximately £900 inclusive of 1000 Newsletter run-ons and their distribution. RS queried the cost of the Newsletter and it was explained that the £600 charge for the Newsletter incorporated the piggy back distribution which takes place via the circulation of 5,000 copies of the Wings magazine in the surrounding Clay Cross area. It was also explained that we buy additional stand alone Newsletters, known as 'run ons' which we deliver to targeted more recently developed household areas in Clay Cross with the specific intention of raising awareness of what is on offer in the town.

6. Future Activities – Pop up Cinema – SteveS is to investigate the possibility of an event before the clocks go forward in March and also advised that he has already reserved a date in October for a cinema event.

Easter egg competition- AK advised that Martin Roberts has been in contact with the Vicar Richard Law with a view to organising this event which would focus on decorated Easter eggs created by children being placed in local shop windows.

RS commented that as a constituted group we were eligible to apply for section 137 grant funding from the Parish council for community activities such as those mentioned above

7. Member information exchange - Barbara Parker advised there is a Quiz night at the St Barnabas Centre on Saturday evening 18th February. Mrs Spray informed us that two thirds of the £8,000 bag money award has now been received by the community garden project and circulated some photographs showing the considerable progress made to date in clearing what was an overgrown piece of land. The garden itself is due to open on Easter Saturday afternoon with an Easter egg hunt.

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