

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COLNE TOWN CENTRE FORUM
HELD AT COLNE TOWN HALL
ON 14th JUNE, 2016**

PRESENT –

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| <i>Ashley Sutcliffe</i> | <i>Live Like the Boy/Colne Town Council</i> |
| <i>Deborah Bentley</i> | <i>Wooleys/Consumers</i> |
| <i>Maureen Hardacre</i> | <i>Glamour Ice</i> |
| <i>Jim Walker</i> | <i>Jim's</i> |
| <i>Colin Unwin</i> | <i>About Coffee Ltd.</i> |
| <i>Mark Jeziorski</i> | <i>Pendle Soup</i> |
| <i>Ian Varley</i> | <i>Liberata – Colne Markets Manager</i> |
| <i>Uavesh Bhagadra</i> | <i>Just Around the Corner (JATC)</i> |
| <i>Councillor D. E. Lord</i> | <i>Pendle Borough Council</i> |
| <i>Councillor S. E. Cockburn-Price</i> | <i>Pendle Borough Council/Colne Town Council</i> |

Also in attendance

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| <i>Paul Collins</i> | <i>Regeneration Officer, Pendle Borough Council</i> |
| <i>Jane Watson</i> | <i>Senior Committee Administrator, Pendle Borough Council</i> |

(Apologies for absence were received from Graham Wharton, Lara Oddie and Councillor A. R. Greaves).



1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

AGREED

That, in the absence of the Chairman, Ashley Sutcliffe be appointed as Chairman for this meeting only.

Ashley Sutcliffe (Chairman – in the Chair)

2. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. PENDLE SOUP

Mark Jeziorski was introduced to the Forum. Mr. Jeziorski explained that Pendle SOUP was a crowdfunding dinner which celebrated and supported creative projects which would benefit the local community. There was a minimum donation of £5 in return for some soup, bread and entertainment. There was then the opportunity to vote for one of four projects presented on the night. He explained that the projects were intended to:

- Help create new job opportunities and economic growth.

- Address needs in the community.
- Empower anyone to make positive change in their community
- Bring together people who want to support this positive change.

The winning project received all of the door money to further their idea. At the last meeting Trawden Forest Community Centre received £260 from the door (along with a further £130 from Asda's top up fund) to go towards their IT drop in centre.

The next meeting was scheduled for 7pm on 22nd June, 2016 and would be held in the Union Exchange Function Room in Colne.

Mr. Jeziorski encouraged everyone to attend this meeting and asked people to spread the word to local businesses about this initiative.

4. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

The possibility of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) was discussed at great length at the last meeting. Paul Collins explained that the information he had been asked to provide in relation to the current rateable values and number of business properties in Colne was taking longer to compile than he envisaged. He did however; state that the information should be available by the next meeting.

It was felt that it was important that this issue be discussed further at the next meeting and that more people should be encouraged to attend so that they were involved from an early stage.

It was stressed that for the BID to work the composition of the Board needed to be set up correctly and there needed to be a vision on how the money was to be spent and how it would benefit traders.

AGREED

- (1) That the data asked for in relation to the current rateable values and the number of properties in Colne be reported to the next meeting.
- (2) That a decision on whether or not to consider taking the BID project forward be considered further at the next meeting.

5. EVENTS

Councillor Cockburn-Price reported on a number of events that had already been planned by Colne Town Council. The first was a Commemorative event of the First World War and would take place on 2nd July, 2016. A World Food and Music Festival were planned for 16th July and Colne Cycling Grand Prix was scheduled for 26th July, 2016. It was noted that the cycling race would be starting earlier at 6.15 p.m. and was to be held on a Tuesday and not a Wednesday as had been the case in the past. Anyone interested in purchasing banners advertising their businesses were encouraged to contact Councillor Cockburn-Price as soon as possible.

Paul Collins provided an update on this year's Blues Festival.

6. GREAT BRITISH HIGH STREET COMPETITION 2016

Paul Collins asked the Forum if they were interested in entering this year's Great British High Street Competition. The event was due to open in the next couple of weeks. Paul also asked for volunteers

to work on submitting the bid. It was acknowledged that the town had benefitted with huge amounts of PR and publicity from entering the competition last year and coming runner up.

AGREED

- (1) That it be agreed that Colne participate in the Great British High Street Competition for 2016.
- (2) That volunteers willing to help work on the submission of the bid be Deborah Bentley, Uavesh Bhagadra and Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that there was a noticeable decline in footfall to the retail outlets in the town – it was estimated that this was down by 30% compared to the same period last year. The explanation given for this was that people's movement patterns had changed. It was also acknowledged that some bus services had been cut/reduced from the outlying areas of the Borough and that this would have an effect on footfall.

The Colne In Bloom judges would be visiting on 5th July. This year they would be starting from the Alma Inn as they had entered the "small bed and breakfast category".

Concerns were raised at the amount of broken glass there was at the top of Windy Bank in Colne. A local trader regularly swept up the glass only for it to return the following day. Paul Collins said he would ask the Environmental Services Manager to look into this and arrange for the glass to be removed.

It was reported that there was an increase in the number of cigarette ends found on the floor outside a number of pubs/restaurants in the town centre. It was suggested that the Council's Enforcement Team be asked to visit the town centre and if need be serve some fixed penalty notices.

The condition of the former Blockbusters unit was referred to again. The property was starting to deteriorate and was covered in fly posters. It was reported that there was nothing further to report at this stage but every effort was being made by the Council to find a way for the unit to be re-occupied.

It was reported that the former Colne Health Centre site had been purchased by the Council and its Joint Venture partner PEARL. Various schemes for the redevelopment of the site were being discussed and a report would be submitted to the Forum for comment once a final decision on the proposed scheme had been made.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

That the next meeting of the Colne Town Centre Forum be held at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd August, 2016 at Colne Town Hall.

Chairman _____