

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COLNE TOWN CENTRE FORUM
HELD AT COLNE TOWN HALL
ON 1ST NOVEMBER, 2016**

PRESENT –

Graham Wharton – Chairman (In the Chair)

Mark Bateman

Colin Hill

Councillor S. E. Cockburn-Price

The Bookshop

CEO – Colne Town Council

Pendle Borough Council/Colne Town Council

Also in attendance

Paul Collins

Lynne Rowland

Regeneration Officer, Pendle Borough Council

Committee Administrator, Pendle Borough Council

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. R. Greaves.)



1.

MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd August, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2.

MATTERS ARISING

Paul Collins reported that, as agreed by the Forum, an application had been submitted to the Great British High Street Competition 2016 in the large market town category. There had been approximately 900 entries across all the categories and, on this occasion, Colne had not been shortlisted.

It was agreed that, when available, the 2016 Great British High Street Good Practice Guide should be consulted for ideas and advice on future submissions. It was also suggested that a desktop analysis of the winning towns in the large market town category be carried out.

3.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

It was reported that Chris Kolek Consulting had undertaken a feasibility study into the establishment of a Colne Business Improvement District. During the study he had consulted with 50 businesses of varying sizes, location and types.

The final feasibility report would be circulated to the Forum when available.

4.

FORMER COLNE HEALTH CENTRE – CONSULTATION

The Forum was told of a two week consultation currently taking place to gather views on proposals to demolish the former Colne Health Centre building and replace with a new building comprising retail premises on the ground floor, and two floors of living accommodation.

An illustration of the proposals and a copy of the proposed floor plans were circulated at the meeting.

A general discussion took place, during which the following comments were made –

- The three storey element is at the front of the building only and much of the building to the rear is one storey. This may look strange from certain angles.
- Consider the inclusion of public toilets.
- Would like assurance that New House Street access will remain clear during construction works.

Details of the consultation were available in Colne Library, on the Council's website, in the local paper and on social media. Comments and completed forms should be sent directly to Paul Collins by 5th November, 2016.

5. EVENTS

Councillor Cockburn-Price asked those present for their feedback on the event held the previous weekend. The general view was that businesses and the town had been busier than normal.

She then reported on a number of upcoming events that had been planned by Colne Town Council as follows –

- 12th November - Colne Commemorates Exhibition
- 26th November – Christmas in Colne and Food Festival
- 15th April, 2017 – Colne Easter and Food Festival
- 30th April, 2017 – Seed and Plant Swap Event
- 17th June, 2017 – World Music and Food Festival
- July, 2017 – Colne Grand Prix

Further details and the dates of Colne Nursery Markets were available on the Town Council's website www.colnetowncouncil.org.uk

It was suggested that a generic survey be carried out with local businesses to seek their views on the success or otherwise of the various events held throughout the year and establish what impact, if any, they had on local traders.

6. PROMOTING COLNE – IDEAS

The Forum discussed various ideas to promote Colne, including –

- A vintage day with scooters/cars
- 40s day
- Soap Box Derby
- Line Dancing

It was acknowledged that further work was needed in marketing and promoting the town. It had been noted that the Visit Pendle website required updating, in particular with regard to the business directory. This issue was currently being looked at by the Council's Tourism Officer.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Collins reminded those present of the 'Colne Breakfast Club' informal networking sessions. The business breakfast meetings were held on the 1st Thursday of every month from 8:30 at About Coffee. There was no set agenda; it was simply a chance for Colne businesses to get together.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

That the next meeting of the Colne Town Centre Forum be held in late January/early February, 2017.

Chairman _____