

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COLNE TOWN CENTRE FORUM
HELD AT COLNE TOWN HALL
ON 25th APRIL, 2017**

PRESENT –

Graham Waugh – Chairman (in the Chair)

<i>Mark Bateman</i>	<i>The Bookshop</i>
<i>Sandra Fernandez</i>	<i>Pendle Belles</i>
<i>Frank Murray</i>	<i>Pendle Belles</i>
<i>Jim Walker</i>	<i>Jim's Café</i>
<i>Joanne Peasey</i>	<i>The Dressing Room</i>
<i>Maureen Hardacre</i>	<i>Snack Bar (Market Hall)</i>
<i>Councillor S. E. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>Pendle Borough Council/Colne Town Council</i>
<i>Jane Turner</i>	<i>Turners</i>
<i>Lynda Roberts</i>	<i>12 Bar</i>
<i>Pete Jagger</i>	<i>Stell's Famous Pet Store</i>

Also in attendance

<i>Paul Collins</i>	<i>Business Support Team Leader</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Head of Democratic Services</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from D. Braithwaite, L. Oddie, T. Jorden and A. Sutcliffe).



1. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st February, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Paul Collins gave an update on the current position regard the Business Improvement District (BID) for Colne. At the last Executive meeting on 16th March, 2017 funding had been agreed to enable the BID to progress to the next stage (i.e., planning and consultation stage). A feasibility study had been undertaken by Kolek Consulting to gauge local opinion and assess the existing attitudes of business ratepayers towards the idea of a BID for Colne.

It was reported that 50 Colne businesses had been interviewed across a variety of sizes, types and locations. Of these 80% supported the general concept of a BID.

The next stage was the planning and consultation stage which would take approximately 12 months to complete. The Executive had agreed to retain Kolek Consultation to assist with this. It was acknowledged that there were approximately 300 successful BIDs elsewhere in the country. The more thriving BIDs were more successful if led by businesses as opposed to the local authority. It was proposed that a meeting would be arranged to launch the BID with the consultants and applications for membership to the Steering Group be invited.

The Executive report and feasibility study were available on the Council's website www.pendle.gov.uk and via the following link:
<http://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2279/executive>

AGREED

That the link to the Executive report and feasibility study on the proposed BID for Colne be circulated to members of the Forum.

3. EVENTS

Councillor Cockburn-Price gave an update on events planned for the remainder of the year by Colne Town Council. This included Picnic in the Park, at Alkincoats Park, Summer Music and Food Festival, Colne Cycling Grand Prix and the Blues Festival.

4. PROMOTING COLNE

Paul Collins said that the new Visit Pendle Guide was now available on line at www.pendle.gov.uk. A number of hard copies had also been produced which would be distributed. Discover Pendle had been relocated into the café at Boundary Mill. There was no longer a dedicated tourist information service available but there was a large screen which promoted Pendle along with a limited supply of leaflets.

It was reported that the Council's tourism budget had been reduced and there was no longer a specific fund for town based promotion. The budget was to be used for Pendle-wide promotion of tourism. It was also noted that contacting Lancashire Life, Visit Lancashire and Good Pub Guide might be worth trying to promote an event (there wasn't always a cost for this).

Jane Turner from Turners in Barrowford introduced herself to the Forum. The business was moving to the former Tubs premises on Albert Road during May with a proposed opening on the bank holiday weekend 27th May.

5. COLNE HERITAGE TRAIL

Following discussion at the last meeting it was reported the Colne Heritage Trail was also available on the Council's tourism website www.visitpendle.com. Hard copies were currently unavailable.

There was a suggestion made that perhaps Colne Town Council would be interested in providing some match funding in the future to reprint the popular trail.

AGREED

That Colne Town Council be approached with a view to providing match funding for future reprints of the Colne Heritage Trail.

6. GREAT BRITISH HIGH STREET COMPETITION

At a previous meeting it had been agreed that the £500 prize money for Colne being runners up in last year's Great British High Street Competition should be spent on an information board for the town centre. It was reported that Colne Town Council had funding set aside for a new notice board.

There was a lengthy discussion where some people felt that a decision had already been made and that there was no need for any further discussion on the matter. During discussion it was suggested that commemorative plaques stating Colne as being a runner up in the Great British High Street Competition 2016 be made and attached to all existing notice boards in the town centre.

AGREED

That commemorative plaques be made and attached to all existing notice boards in the town centre stating Colne's position as runner up in the Great British High Street Competition 2016 as soon as possible.

7. VIVARY WAY, COLNE

It was reported that the Executive on 16th March, 2017 considered a report on the proposed use of the former Urban Altitude site on Vivary Way, Colne. Following a consultation exercise a number of suggestions had been put forward and Members were going to meet with the parties concerned prior to a decision being made at its next meeting in May. The proposals put forward were for additional car parking for both Boundary Mill and Lloyd's BMW, a wheel park and a 3G pitch.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the first floor of properties on Market Street, Colne (from the Yorkshire Bank). The buildings were starting to look unkempt and grass was growing from the gutters on the former Blockbuster unit. It was reported that a S215 Notice had been served on the owners of this building requiring them to maintain and make repairs to it. It was suggested that the Premises Improvement Grant funding could be used to assist in repairs to these premises.
- It was reported that the local National Westminster Bank would be closing shortly. The only other banking services available would be the Post Office on Albert Road and Skipton Road. A number of businesses currently used the services of the Bank and would be affected by its closure.

AGREED

That letters be sent to properties on Market Street, Colne, from the Yorkshire Bank upwards, advising them of the Premises Improvement Grant funding which was available for repairs to shop frontages in the town centre.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

That the next Forum meeting be held at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 11th July, 2017 at Colne Town Hall.

Chairman _____