

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COLNE TOWN CENTRE FORUM
HELD AT COLNE TOWN HALL
ON 1st AUGUST, 2017**

PRESENT –

<i>Graham Wharton</i>	<i>Grahame's</i>
<i>Mark Bateman</i>	<i>The Bookshop</i>
<i>Jim Walker</i>	<i>Jim's</i>
<i>Alice Mann</i>	<i>Sable Cross B&B</i>
<i>Janet Robinson</i>	<i>Inspired Interiors</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 Councillor S. E. Cockburn-Price, A. Sutcliffe, P. Jagger and I. Varley).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

AGREED

That Graham Wharton be appointed Chairman of the Forum for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

Graham Wharton (Chairman – in the Chair)

2. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

An update on progress with the Business Improvement District (BID) for Colne was given. All businesses had been invited to a meeting on 14th June, 2017 where the concept of the BID was explained. Nine businesses submitted an expression of interest to be members of the Steering Group. It was stressed that the more successful BIDs were business led. Kolek Consulting had also circulated leaflets informing businesses about the BID and the process involved to progress it.

The Steering Group met on 27th July with only three out of the nine businesses represented. This was a little disappointing and it was felt there needed to be more momentum to progress the BID. The next stage was to undertake a needs analysis and this would be done by way of a questionnaire. This would be put together by Kolek Consulting and submitted to the Steering Group for approval. It was anticipated this would be circulated within the next few weeks and for the Steering Group to consider the responses by September.

It was noted that if there was no appetite for the BID then it would not be progressed further. It was acknowledged that there had been 'talk' of the BID for some time now and progress, it was

accepted, had been slow. It was felt that for the BID to progress, and for it to be successful, there needed to be more ownership of the concept from businesses.

4. EVENTS UPDATE

Concerns were expressed that the road closure for the recent Colne Grand Prix Cycle Race had been put in place from 3pm instead of 4pm and had resulted in traffic congestion on other roads including the M65. The barriers had also been put out around this time which it was felt, was far too early. Market traders had to close at 2.30 p.m. but had been charged for a full day's rent. It was felt that the event had been a success but the road closure should not have been implemented so soon. Greater publicity was also needed to make people aware that that the race would affect traffic flow in certain areas.

In previous years the event had taken place on a Tuesday, which was better for traders. This year's event had been held on a Wednesday but it was explained that the change was down to British Cycling schedule of events.

Concerns regarding the road closure during the Town Council's Food Festival were also raised. The positioning of the stalls at the 'top end' of the town centre meant that traders lower down did not benefit from the event. It was felt that the road closure was not entirely necessary.

It was agreed that the concerns raised would be passed onto the Town Council as both events were organised by them.

It was reported that Colne Market had held two events recently, Commic-Con and a Wild West weekend. Those present were encouraged to let Pendle Council know if they were organising any events so that these could be promoted on the Visit Pendle website, Marketing Lancashire websites and linked social media accounts.

Colne Town Council were also organising this year's Blues Festival but this year it was only for three nights. During discussion reference was made to the 'confusing' pricing structure; the fair and that the event would not include the bank holiday Monday. It was acknowledge that this was a transitional year as the event had previously been organised by Pendle Leisure Trust. To ensure the event continued, Colne Town Council had agreed to organise this year's event. If it was successful then the event would continue to be run by the Town Council

5. PROMOTING COLNE

There was a discussion around the loyalty card scheme which had been run for a number of years now. The number of businesses participating was down to 23 and they paid £10 a month. It was felt the scheme needed promoting more. This could be done by raising the profile of the scheme and promoting the winners on social media sites.

Colne Heritage Trail was being updated ready for reprinting and the new Pendle Visitor guide was now available on-line and 20,000 copies had also been printed.

The new information board at Boundary Mill had been installed for some time now and a couple of new films promoting Pendle had been made.

Pendle's Walking Festival would take place from 17th to 21st August, 2017 and, as in previous years; it was expected to attract a lot of visitors to the Borough.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that planning applications had been submitted for the demolition of the old health centre on Market Street and for the re-development of the site. A change of use application to turn the corner surgery to a funeral directors had also been submitted. There was a feeling that the trees outside the old health centre should be retained where possible, but if not then they be replaced.

The former Blockbuster unit was still empty and there was no further progress to report. It was acknowledged, however, that there were very few empty units within the town centre.

Following a consultation exercise the Executive had agreed that the former Urban Altitude site be used for additional parking for both Boundary Mill and Lloyds BMW and a wheel park be installed on the remainder of the site. It was noted that funding for the wheel park had yet to be secured.

There was a suggestion that consideration be given to planting wild flowers in various green spaces within the town centre. It was agreed that this be referred to Neighbourhood Services for consideration.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

That the next meeting of the Colne Town Centre Forum be held at 5.30 p.m. on 10th October, 2017 at Colne Town Hall.

Chairman _____