

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COLNE TOWN CENTRE FORUM
HELD AT COLNE TOWN HALL
ON 17th JANUARY, 2018**

PRESENT—

Graham Wharton (Chairman – in the chair)

Chris Kolek	Colne BID
Mark Bateman	The Bookshop
Pete Jagger	Stell's Famous Pet Store
Ian Varley	Liberata
Jim Walker	Jim's
Eleanor Jolley	Co-ordinator Colne Commemorates
E. Cornish	Co-op
David Hurd	Create Studios
Ailsa Gill	Lancashire Constabulary
Matthew Eyre	Colne Tyre Centre
Victoria Fletcher	
Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price	Colne Town Council and Pendle Borough Council

Also in attendance

Jane Watson Head of Democratic Services

(Apologies were received from Paul Collins and Councillor A. R. Greaves).

1. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. COLNE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Chris Kolek gave a presentation on progress to date with the BID. This included priorities; areas businesses were willing to pay for; objectives; the aim of the BID and a programme which reflected the priorities and objectives in the BID. Suggestions were put forward on how the priorities could be addressed. It was stressed that the BID was still 'work in progress' and amendments could still be made.

The provisional BID area included Sainsbury's and businesses on the North Valley Retail Park. It did not, however, include Boundary Mill. The BID area included 337 rateable premises of £3,000 plus rateable value and it had been suggested that this be set at 1.5% of the rateable value. This could potentially raise up to £100,000 per year, and £0.5m over five years. With running costs set at 20 to 25% of the total budget, including billing, collection and possibly part time support for a BID company to implement this would leave a budget of between £75-80,000 to fund projects and activities which would contribute to the objectives of the BID. It was noted that the BID could attract sponsorship and voluntary contributions to invest over half a million pounds which could be used to improve businesses in Colne.

A possible timetable for the ballot and start date of the BID was discussed. It was noted that once the BID proposal document had been prepared there would need to be 12 weeks' notice of intention to go to ballot. Following approval by the Council there would follow a 'Vote YES Campaign' and publication of the notice of ballot. It was suggested that the ballot day be sometime in June with a possible start date of 1st October, 2018 for the BID.

A prospectus would need to be produced to help 'sell' the BID and it was stressed that this should emphasise the rationale to ensure the key messages were put across. The Forum discussed the voting process and the implications of there being a low turn out to vote. It was acknowledged that a huge amount of work was required to encourage people to vote.

3. EVENTS UPDATE AND FEEDBACK

(a) Christmas Lights Switch On

It was felt that although the town had been quiet during the day the event itself had been a success. However, it was suggested that for this year's event the food festival be moved to a different location which would allow for the road to remain open. The Co-op had lost a considerable amount of money that day due mainly to the road closure. It was reported that the Town Council was not looking to close the road at this year's event. It was also felt the outdoor market area was not used to its full potential. It was acknowledged that although regulars stayed away the event helped to attract different people into the town.

(b) Blues Festival 2018

It was reported that at this year's event the intention was to implement a road closure for three days to enable the Town Council to close up the Friday night if there were any problems. The proposal was to close the road on both Saturday and Sunday from the Crown up to Hartley Square between 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 a.m.

The suggestion from the Town Council was that the fairground would start to set up either Thursday or very early on the Friday. This would however, affect the usage of the Red Lion car park during this time. Concern was expressed that this was too early, and that in previous years the fairground had started to set up from 4.30 p.m. on the Friday.

The intention for this year was to bring in a food market and craft market with stalls positioned all the way up from the Municipal Hall up to Hartley Square during the day. This would then encourage footfall to flow up the town and would benefit everyone. There was a request that consideration be given to which stalls were placed where i.e., not outside an existing business that sold the same items/goods.

It was acknowledged that the event on the whole benefitted the town and as a result some inconvenience was to be expected. The event built on the profile of the town and also contributed to the town's image.

(c) Colne Grand Prix 2018

It was reported that the intention was to implement the road closure half an hour later than last year. There would also be the various outdoor stalls and town centre retailers were encouraged to take advantage of this by booking a stall via the Town Council (Naomi Crewe 01282 861888). The Town Council were also looking to add anything to the day that would encourage people to

visit the town sooner and take advantage of what was on offer in the town. This would be on a neutral cost basis.

(d) Colne Commemorates World War 1

The Forum was advised that on 23rd June, 2018 there would be an event to commemorate World War 1. A Heritage Lottery Bid was to be submitted but depending on how successful the bid was would depend on what could be provided. A 'draft' programme had been produced which included re-enactments, mime artists, aircraft, street entertainers and music and drama at the Hippodrome Theatre.

A blue plaque scheme was also proposed. The plaques would be displayed in shop windows or on premises stating what had been on that site post 1918. This would provide a trail around the town. It was noted that this linked in with the BID priority "enhance the marketing of Colne to visitors."

Schools would also be invited to participate with an exhibition of their projects displayed at Colne Town Hall.

AGREED

That the proposals for the Colne Commemorates World War 1 event be supported.

4. DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

(a) Former Colne Health Centre site

The planning application for the redevelopment of the former Colne Health Centre site had been considered by the Colne and District Committee at its meeting on 11th January. The application was to demolish the health centre and construct a mixed use building comprising of 4 retail units (Use Class A1) and 11 two and one bedroom apartments. It was reported that the application had been deferred pending further discussions regarding design issues.

(b) Land at Vivary Way, Colne

A planning application had been approved for the formation of a wheel park, formation of linear park to the former railway line and extension of car parking provision for Boundary Mill and Lloyds BMW. The application also included the extension and realignment of the Leisure Trust car park and a new footpath on land at Vivary Way, Colne.

(c) Pendle Leisure Centre – Consultation

The on-line public consultation for the proposed redevelopment of the centre was still ongoing. The Forum was reminded that the deadline for responses was 24th January, 2018.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that Colne Market would again be holding the Comicon event this year. A date had yet to be agreed.

There was a question on the use of town centre radios and whether or not these were still in operation. In the past most shops/businesses in the town centre had used these devices. It was reported that the radios worked best where the shops were in close proximity to each other such as in Barnoldswick where the radios were still used. In the past the radios had not been used enough and people lacked confidence in using them. It was noted that if it was felt that they should be reintroduced there was a cost implication which needed to be considered. It was suggested that this might be something the BID Steering Group could consider.

An update on the Police coverage within the town centre was given. It was agreed that contact details for the relevant PCSO's and Community Beat Managers be circulated.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged.

Chairman _____