



Wirksworth Civic Society

Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2010 *Draft minutes*

Present

Colin Pidgeon, Chair

Janet Pidgeon, Secretary

Barry Joyce

Ian Dare

Graham Barfield, Programme Secretary

Mike Ratcliffe

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

Pelican crossing –no response from relevant officer

Town Notice Board –

**Action* –Mike to liaise with EVRA who have a board there & AGS

Coping stones & planting in Church Walk –more coping stones gone; Mike trying to get action on planting to no avail

Coping stones on bridge –replaced

Payne's shop – Janet wrote but no response; Tanya Shaw informed; windows will collapse; NP approached Marian seeking information on grants; advised to contact Tanya.

**Action* –Janet to email Tanya asking her to speak to NP regarding possible grants

Summer Campaign- used Matlock Mercury to disseminate information rather than newsletters to all homes which was impractical

Water Lane Development – application withdrawn

Market Place –hole in car park – worse than ever & kerb stones loose in The Causeway due to cars hitting them in snow & ice

Anniversary Dinner –very pleasant evening; Adam Lathbury & Tanya Shaw very successful; Graham's booklet appreciated

Agenda items

Townscape Working Party Report

Community Square- looks poor; Ian wrote to Rob Forsythe in November re planting, coping stones, weeds, need for benches but no response received; back of shop cleared up by new owner & Sue Lester, PCSO involved; York stone fragmenting in severe weather

**Action* – Mike to pursue

***NB** –Action to address lack of response to CS letters- all correspondence to DDDC to be sent to relevant officer & copied Head of dept, Chief Executive & Lewis Rose, Leader of Council; if no response is received from relevant officer, Chief Executive to be informed

Buildings at Risk Walk – took place in November

**Action* –Janet to chase up report

10-14 Coldwell Street – sold & work started in No 14

Signage –slippery road sign gone, new car park signs on Harrison Drive

Wirksworth Clean Streets meeting – Mike & members of group going to see Peter Foley, Commercial Services HoD & group has written to Chief Constable asking about on the spot fines

Street cleaning – Ian contacted Rob Forsythe re litter around Hannages & Coldwell Street, having collected rubbish himself & requested more frequent service; hedge in front of Fanny Shaw & cemetery lodge full of rubbish; received positive response; also contacted My Street; only Cemetery Lodge cleared; recycling area in Wheatsheaf car park also a mess. Town no longer has dedicated street cleaner due to illness, so not same level of care

**Action – Ian to contact Keith Hollinshead*

Pavements – application of uniform black surface commendable

Rural Litter Group – Ian has produced poster requesting volunteers; to be included in next Newsletter; Mike to pursue idea of dedicated caretaker for town

Church Walk

Copies of rejection letter from Jeremy Fenn, officer at HLF circulated & discussed; raised at DDDC meeting last week & Leader of Council, Lewis Rose responded; DDDC had made an investment in project by sending officer to Church Walk Group; DDDC accepts responsibility for repair & maintenance of railings as far as it is able

Vote of thanks to Secretary & others recorded for work on HLF application

**Action – Janet to write to:*

Dick Hardy re surface & drains

Cllr Rose re railings & plinth

English Heritage – asking whether we can apply for grant

Planning Applications

Boulderflatts Mine – owner applied for certificates of use for construction of agricultural buildings – enormous glass buildings – DDDC refused certificate

Hannage footpath – AGS Foundation Governors have project to improve footpath on perimeter of school to Coldwell Street with new fencing & sculpture trail & is looking for support from DDDC & Town Council

Crown Square, Matlock – information circulated by DDDC

Waltham House – had to apply for change of use to restaurant as there is more community use than previously intended

Dales Housing

Proposed major development Wash Green/King Edward Street – Graham attended exhibition 7th September; approx 14 houses to be sited at back of King Edward Street; good use of unused ground but could be difficult to integrate further houses; concern regarding addition cars using Wash Green where parking creates difficulties; more refuge areas needed for passing cars; situation requires improved management

Transition Wirksworth

Transition Town -utilising a town`s resources and expertise in order to be resilient against the pressures of oil and other fuels running out.

Evening to launch idea of Wirksworth moving to a transition town Monday 22nd March in Red Lion -looking for support

Community Quiz

Friday 12th March, 7.00pm. AGS Hall

Civic Society team members: Ian, Marian, Graham, Mike, Colin, Janet

AOB

Haarlem Mill –successful request made via DDDC to English Heritage for upgrading to Grade II* with description of its significance; should give impetus to DDDC to be more rigorous in approach to owners

Peter Gratton- condolence card to be sent to Ursula on behalf of CS

**Action –Janet to send*

Gordon Michell – Barry to deliver tribute at memorial Service; also wrote obituary

Civic Society Initiative –information circulated to Civic Societies by email & post –attempt to revive Civic Trust

**Action –keep in touch & forward to Barry*

The Vaults- sold to property developer for conversion upstairs to residential accommodation on understanding that there is commercial activity on ground floor; awaiting results of planning application; would be preferable to have ground floor as residential rather than stand empty as it is not in town centre however, should resist turning town centre properties to residential use

Christmas lights - very attractive & use 20% of power of standards lights; 70% are led

Beechwood's shop – by crossing –let out & moving in in April

Date & time of next meeting:

Tuesday 23rd March, 7.30pm, 10 Summer Drive