

Wirksworth Civic Society

Committee Meeting held on Tuesday July 2005

Draft minutes

Present

Colin Pidgeon, Chair
Graham Barfield, Secretary
Janet Pidgeon, Minuting Secretary
Ian Dare
Barrie Joyce
Mike Ratcliffe
Marian Vaughan

Apologies

Ken Acons
Adam Lathbury
Andy Link

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

Matters arising

- Wirksworth Care Centre (see Agenda item)
**Action: Irene & Mike Ratcliffe invited to October meeting to present proposals for Town development*
- Market Celebrations 2006 – see Agenda item
- MV reported that broken paving stone outside Peak House replaced by asphalt is badly repaired & dangerous; deliveries park there & damage & block the pavement.
- Churchyard – refurbishment of railings & plinth -
BJ reported that the Aggregates' Levy Sustainability Fund Scheme is allocated for the next 2 years & English Heritage have indicated there is no chance of funding; an application for funding from the County Council might meet the criteria. The report is lodged with the civic society (CS) to keep the issue live, pending further funding.
The Cathedral Camp painted a section of the railings & took turf off some of the gravestones.
- paved area – photos were sent to the David Knightley Trust to meet their requirements; Ralph Selby & Jenny Hoon are to look at the area & report to the meeting on Sept 20th
MV raised Church Walk where tarmac covers paving stones; this is the responsibility of the County Council; renovation would prove too costly; ID proposed improved maintenance.
**Action: GB to write to CC to request site meeting to discuss area*
- Callow Park Field
**Action: MR to take up issue*

Agenda items

Townscape Working Party Meeting

ID reported on meeting; members to report back on audits at next meeting; Marian & Gerry Vaughan to audit Church Walk area. Sensitive views have already been audited.

**Action: MR to lodge copy of views & photo from Town Hall tower with Chair*
Sub committee to meet June 21st, 7.30pm, 10 Summer Drive

Care Centre – meeting at Town Hall

There was a good turn-out at the meeting earlier in the day to look at plans; the press was present.

Concerns centre around - poor provision for parking; increased generation of traffic & congestion; duplication of provision eg café, meeting rooms; loss of light , view; MR said that compromise might be necessary & majority view may have to prevail.

Parking –MR reported that current parking on the site is a concession; there is no right to parking spaces; research shows the Town is well-provided with parking & some is under-used.

Road –insistence of the District Council (DC) & Housing 21 on a road through The Meadows; the feeling was the meeting is that this should be challenged. The draft planning application is due in a few weeks & the final application is due in November.

It was suggested that the Education Department may wish to protect the route through The Meadows pending a new school on the site.

The feeling was the removal of the problem of the road would give a greater chance of success.

A suggestion was raised of a new house at the end of the entrance area (where the post box is), leaving access to the Care Centre, closing the gap, bringing funding into the development.

**Action: the Chair will develop a checklist of issues to be addressed; MR will raise issues with IR; a definitive response will then be prepared by the CS.*

Marker Charter –progress report

Plans are progressing; the scale depends on funding.

The proposed programme includes:

various markets, medieval music, an all faith service, street entertainment, reinactments/representations, a pageant & cavalcade, involving drama groups, stocks, Simon Groom to act as link person/presenter; a talk organised by the WEA on the history of markets through the ages, an inaugural dinner in the Friday night in the Town Hall with a medieval theme.

The Carnival is to trail it with a medieval theme.

To access funding, community involvement & permanent value are factors so a DVD is proposed.

The Lord Lieutenant has been approached; no response to date.

After discussion on stone/plaque to mark the centenary, it was decided to commission a bronze wall plaque & ask the owners of Toby's for permission to mount it on their building.

**Action: GB to chase up Lord Lieutenant*

**CP & GB to produce wording for plaque & approach the owners of Toby's*

Town Planning update

Postponed to next meeting when I&MR are to be invited to give an overview of the next decade.

MR reported on the likelihood of the Planning Committee turning down Beechwood's application to move into the old framer's shop following the report of the retail & commercial survey of the Town undertaken in April 2005; it recommended that Beechwood should not be allowed to do so as it would have a detrimental impact on the vitality & viability of the Town.

It was suggested that the CS puts pressure on owners of empty shops to rent them to retailers & that it encourages a policy of consolidation of the Town centre, bringing retailers from the outskirts into the centre.

**Action: MR to prepare overview for October meeting*

**Action: Town centre to be a focus of October meeting*

Website

Andy Link sent a proforma for Committee members to complete & return to be posted on the website. These were handed out.

**Members to return proformas to the Chair*

Action Plan for year

To be focus of October meeting

Any other business

- State of roof of swimming pool ;MR has taken up with District Council

**Action :MR to pursue*

- Applications for extension of licensing hours

**Action: CP & GB to check on applications with Licensing Committee*

Date & time of next meeting

Tuesday 20th September 7.30 10 Summer Drive

Foci

- Churchyard – Ralph Selby & Jenny Hoon
- Market Charter

Please confirm attendance

Have a good summer!

