

**Town Centre Partnership
Meeting 18 March 2011**

MINUTES

Present	Peter Atkinson (PA)	Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
	Liz Chandler (LC)	Natures Corner
	Mag Williams (MW)	Kennet Centre Manager
	Malcolm Bull (MB)	MD Rivar Property
	Brian Burgess (BB)	Newbury Retail Association
	Patrick Griffin (PG)	Chamber of Commerce Property Group
	Jeremy Holden-Bell (JHB)	Newbury Society
	Jonathan Hopson (JJH)	Camp Hopson
	Nicola Butler (NB)	Newbury Racecourse
	Dave Milsom (DM)	Thames Valley Police
	Maurice Elliott (ME)	TCP Treasurer
	Pamela Bale (PB)	West Berks Council
	John Hampson (DJH)	Newbury Weekly News
	David Blake (DB)	Newbury Sound

In Attendance

Jeff Beck (JB)	WBC Member
Graham Hunt (GH)	NTC (CEO)
Amanda Loaring (AL)	West Berks Council
Keith Ulyatt (KU)	West Berks Council
Roger Hunneman (RH)	WBC Member
Chris Rice (CR)	Camp Hopson Facilities & Security Manager
Mike Nisbet (MN)	S.L.I.

Apologies

Norman Fryer-Saxby , Nick Carter, Julian Swift-Hook, Caroline Paus, Linda Thomas, Anthony Cox, David Appleton, Katy Griffiths.

Introduction PA explained that he is acting as chairman whilst LC chairs the BID sub committee.

Minutes of last meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2011 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising

All matters arising are covered under the agenda.

Parkway

MN reported that the Centre Manager will attend the next TCP Meeting. Some of the time lost during the bad weather has been recovered and 10 lifts have been installed. Landscaping at the north end of the site has begun. There are currently about 350 workers on site which will increase by 100 when the fitting out of the Debenhams store commences next month. The tower cranes will be removed in May and June. Marketing of the residential units will begin on 26 March. There have been a number of open days and the closure of Parkway Bridge was largely uneventful. BB asked if the water table has stabilised. MN confirmed that the pumps were switched off in February. MN will provide a written update.

Events & Communication

PA explained that Caroline Paus is seconded to the PCT assisting with the organisation of Feelgood Fortnight. This begins on 9 April consisting of 100+ events. Other events scheduled include;

Battle of Newbury	14 May
Sealed Knot	21 & 28 May
Newbury Coat	25 & 26 June
Animal Awareness	August

The report of the meeting held on 3 March were circulated. Maxx Design have agreed to design a logo and the layout for a BID brochure. Funding for 2 issues of Retailers Update each costing £500 for 5,000 copies has been agreed. BB questioned the wisdom of taking down the Newburytowncentre website. This receives a high volume of hits and he is happy to maintain it at no cost to the TCP if provided with the necessary updates. PA suggested maintaining this website until the BID is finalised. JJH and MW supported this approach.

Footfall Report

MW presented the footfall reports prepared for the Kennet Centre during February and March. These showed an increase and are better than the national benchmark.

Finance & Strategy

The financial reports were circulated.

BID Group

LC reported that funding will be received on 28 March. It is anticipated that a shortfall of £20k to £30k will remain and more detailed projections will be presented to the next meeting. PG reported that discussions with Greenham Common to establish the level of support for events are ongoing. Any support

for the BID must be charitably based. LC reported that interviews for a BID Development Manager have been held. The preferred candidate has BID experience and a further meeting is scheduled for next week. The Stakeholders Meeting was not well attended but some projects were identified and there was discussion regarding the BID area. A further meeting will be held at the Town Hall at 6.15 on 12 April. Flyers will be sent out advertising this. Numbers to LC please. A further presentation will be made at the Chamber of Commerce meeting in mid May.

Police Report

DM advised that he now has responsibility for the outer area of West Berks as well as Newbury Town Centre. The structure will be reviewed. A shoplifter is now in prison and most burglaries have now been cleared up. A licensed premises is being taken to review following a test purchase exercise. A day time drugs operation had been carried out using a passive drugs dog. BB expressed concern at the number of robberies mainly for mobile phones in underpasses. DM said that these are drug related and mostly non violent. RH questioned the accuracy of some of the crime map statistics and DM agreed that these needed to be reviewed as there appears to be some inconsistencies. JB asked about the CCTV link. DM confirmed that the administration is in place and the physical installation in the custody suite will be completed soon. It has been proposed that the Shopsafe scheme will in future be operated by the members with police support. An extraordinary meeting will be held on 22 March to consider the constitution and future organisation. JHB asked if the existing cameras at Strawberry Hill and Northcroft Lane will be removed. DM agreed to report back. BB asked if DM is happy with the coverage. DM confirmed that the quality is very good and arrests have been made. MW confirmed that the system is working well.

Vision 2025

MB reported on the meeting held on 28 February. The heads of terms for the urban village have been agreed. It is felt that the residential element should be reconsidered to include town houses rather than flats. West Berks have taken the bus station back and an application is anticipated in 2012. The committee recommends that the council reconsiders its office premises policy. Demand for offices is weak and changes to other uses may be appropriate. The Victoria Park pavilion is progressing and Greenham Trust may be involved. A design competition is scheduled for early summer. A strategic study for London Road will be undertaken to be completed by the end of 2011. The Vision Conference is likely to be held in September/October and will include a BID element. The committee feel that the Vision should be extended to include the Racecourse and Hambridge Lane areas. MB and PG will circulate plans of the main undeveloped sites. Nick Carter will discuss the position of unlet units in relation to the BID with SLI.

Accessibility/Parking/Transport

A meeting will be held on 13 May

Safety and Security

A meeting will be held on 30 March.

Newbury T.C.

- Victoria Park – News Item published with updates on Skatepark, Playground, HLF bid, tree works, water levels and proposal to move Queen Victoria.
- Further market promotion – new posters circulated, lots of special events lined up and appeal made for live music performers throughout the summer – “Music in the Market”
- Discussion underway on relevant BID Projects / Services for submission to the BID team
- Town Hall – various suggestions being made on potential future use of Town Hall Suite 1 – the old CCTV Control Room – further suggestions are welcome on possible future uses of this Town Centre location

West Berkshire Report

PB reported that the various remedial works have now been completed. BB remarked that the town is now looking very tidy. Northbrook Street is now open from 5.00pm. BB commented on the traffic congestion on the southbound A.339. There does not appear to be an obvious reason. JJH asked if an update on changes to signage etc could be prepared. KU agreed to look into this.

Newbury Retail Association

BB reported that retailers in the south of the town are finding trade difficult and further closures are likely. There is some negative reaction to the BID and one individual is campaigning against it. LC will meet with this person. JJH explained that results from national retailers have to be treated with caution as regional variations may be masked.

AOB

BB reported that work on the Berkshire Tavern has recommenced. AL reported on the launch of the VisitNewbury website. A supporting brochure has been prepared. Content is increasing and Parkway will be involved. RH asked if the improved access to car parks following the closure of Parkway Bridge could be publicised. JJH said that their research suggested that there are 480000 people living within 20 minutes drive time of Newbury.

Next Meeting

15 April at West Berks District Council

Proposed Dates for future meetings (all Fridays 9.30-11.30am)

20 May 11

17 June 11

15 July 11

19 August 11

16 September 11

21 October 11

18 November 11