

**Town Centre Partnership
Meeting 15 July 2011**

MINUTES

Present	Peter Atkinson (PA)	Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
	Mag Williams (MW)	Kennet Centre Manager
	Russell Downing (RD)	BID Development Manager
	Brian Burgess (BB)	Newbury Retail Association
	Jeremy Holden-Bell (JHB)	Newbury Society
	Jonathan Hopson (JJH)	Independent Retailers
	Pamela Bale (PB)	West Berks Council
	John Hampson (DJH)	Media
	John Barham (JB)	Charter Market
	Neil Carter (NC)	Parkway
	Pete Sutherland (PS)	Thames Valley police
	Alex McIntyre (AM)	Thames Valley Police
	Anthony Cox (AC)	Hoteliers
	Nicola Butler (NB)	Leisure
Malcolm Bull (MB)	Property Development	

In Attendance

Chris Rice (CR)	Camp Hopson
Graham Hunt (GH)	Newbury Town Council
David Appleton (DA)	West Berkshire Council
Caroline Paus	Events Manager

Apologies David Blake, Steve Brind, Linda Thomas, Dave Milsom, Jeff Beck, Linda Thomas, Keith Ulyatt, Liz Chandler, David Allen, Julian Swift-Hook, Katy Griffiths, Nick Carter, Tom Rossiter, James Allen, Una Carr

Minutes of last meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2011 were accepted as a true and correct record subject to various cosmetic amendments.

Matters arising

Planning matters are progressing with the inspection into the West Berkshire Core Strategy due to report in August and a Government consultation on a new National Planning Policy Framework imminent.

Christmas Lights sponsorship opportunities carried forward.

Footfall – further figures circulated, showing a downward trend of 8.3% over 8 years. It was also noted that correlation between footfall and sales cannot be established.

BID Update

RD reported:

- Constructive meetings held with WBC
- Base line agreements progressing
- Meeting scheduled with the police
- Website fully functional
- Steering Group has defined key timelines
- Business plan due by mid / late October
- Big BID Breakfast on 22/7/11
- Overall, getting more positive as there is greater understanding of what the BID can achieve

Various potential projects were discussed (including Bartholomew Street CCTV in some detail) – all such feasible (and preliminarily costed) projects will be publicised on the web site, so that an informed choice by all 495 businesses involved can be made on the final set of prioritised projects to be included in the BID. Suggestions are very welcome, but no project is guaranteed at this stage.

There was further clarification on the role of those businesses outside of the BID area, but who want to be included on a voluntary basis.

Finance & Strategy

Previously circulated financial reports accepted. MB pointed out that further financial support is still being sought for the BID and future events.

It was later in the meeting that this was discussed, but recorded under Strategy, that it was agreed that the TCP CIC board would target a paper on the potential future of the TCP CIC, catering for all potential outcomes of the BID, for discussion at the September meeting. This has to recognise too that a large part of the Town Centre may well be outside the BID district and some current functions of the TCP may not be included in the BID project list.

Parkway

NC presented an update. Still on course for 27/10/11 opening. Various retailers executing fitting out. Operations Manager (Chris Lynn) recruited. Lots of effort in sorting everything for the launch which will attract lots of people. Careful management of parking / visitors will be required on the opening weekend along with lots of advance communication, so everyone is ready to support as necessary. Efforts to involve the whole town are appreciated. Some concerns expressed re lack of planning applications so far for shop frontages – but that is an issue for each individual retailer.

Events & Communication

CP summarised upcoming events, including Serruga Insectes, BID breakfast, Animal Magic, Halloween Hullabaloo and Xmas. Plus next major event is planned for late September.

CP summarised recent events including The Newbury Coat Re-enactment and the Carnival. There was some inconclusive discussion on the potential for the carnival to revert to annually (volunteers permitting), but it was pointed out that it neatly links with the now bi-annual Waterways Festival and a 2012 carnival may clash with one off Diamond Jubilee / Olympiad events.

DJH talked through the pre-circulated notes of the communication group. Concentration at present on preparing for Parkway opening, future events, BID communications (past and future), further newsletter due in October (contributions welcome by 12/9/11).

The future aspirations of the VisitNewbury web site were discussed. There is a need to engage with more suppliers of services, to get a complete picture of what is available in Newbury. The position of the website in relation to all other sites that provide information on Newbury also needs to be addressed, particularly post Parkway opening, when Newbury will have a significantly different retail offering.

Newbury Retail Association

BB provided an update including:

- Concern at some inaccuracy in recent reports of NRA potential demise
- Constitution being reformulated
- BID is main topic discussed at present
- Positive piece on future of Newbury on Newbury Sound today
- Retailers still finding situation difficult – lots of hopes pinned on October improvement
- Looking forward to the re-opening of The Hatchet, (increased competition will be good) but some concern that it may not join in with Market Place all fresco facilities
- Cheap Street retailers still see lack of close parking as a big disadvantage
- Welcome various town centre housing developments – to increase vitality
- Some concern on Scores on the Door system generating unexpected results

Police Report

There has been an encouraging reduction in violent crime since a change in Friday / Saturday night policing cover and the Local Policing Area restructure.

The new skate park has increased incidents of alcohol related asb, but this is being addressed.

TCP Safety & Security meeting due on 20 July 2011.

Vision 2025

West Berkshire Council

PB stated nothing further to report.

Newbury Town Council

GH reported:

- Victoria Park – Skatepark and Playground formally opened with a well attended and successful event on 3 July 2011
- Victoria Park - HLF pre-application for revised bid has been completed
- “Music on the Market” campaign continues with events scheduled for 16/7/11 and 23/7/11
- Newbury Town Council’s formal support for the BID is included in its updated strategy, for ratification on 18/7/11
- Armed Forces Day (26/6/11) and Band of the Royal Engineers (30/6/11) events both attracted visitors to the town
- The carnival was well supported and for the 4th time in a row, the Town Council won the Best Business Entry in the procession.

AOB

None

Next Meeting

19 August at West Berkshire Council

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

16 September 11 at Newbury Town Council

21 October 11 at West Berkshire Council

18 November 11 at Donnington Valley