

**Town Centre Partnership
Meeting 19 August 2011**

MINUTES

Present	Peter Atkinson (PA)	Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
	Mag Williams (MW)	Kennet Centre Manager
	Tom Rossiter (TR)	Legal
	Brian Burgess (BB)	Newbury Retail Association
	Jeremy Holden-Bell (JHB)	Newbury Society
	Jeff Beck (JB)	West Berks Council
	Maurice Elliott (ME)	TCP Treasurer
	Pamela Bale (PB)	West Berks Council
	John Hampson (DJH)	Newbury Weekly News
	Steve Brind (SB)	Charter Market
	Jo Windsor (JW)	Corn Exchange
	David Allen (DA)	Newbury Town Council
	Neil Carter (NC)	S.L.I
	Patrick Griffin (PG)	Sutton Griffin
	Mike Nisbett (MN)	S.L.I.
	Liz Chandler (LC)	Natures Corner
Roger Hunneman (RH)	West Berks Council	
Andy Nicholls (AN)	Thames Valley Police	

In Attendance

Chris Rice (CR)	Camp Hopson .
Graham Hunt (GH)	Newbury Town Council
Nick Carter (NC)	West Berks Council
David Appleton (DAP)	West Berks Council
Keith Ulyatt (KU)	West Berks Council

Apologies Nicola Butler, Caroline Paus, Malcolm Bull, Dave Milsom, Katy Griffiths, Russell Downing, Jonathan Hopson.

Minutes of last meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2011 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Matters arising

The discussion regarding the future of the TCP will be deferred until the October meeting.

Parkway

NC advised that cleaning and security contractors have been appointed. A Centre Manager and an Estates Manager for the residential units will be

appointed soon. The East St scaffolding will be removed next week and the paving reinstated. Scaffolding on the residential towers will also be removed. BB asked about road closures. NC advised that the footpath works will be carried out next week subject to inspection. This will not require a road closure. The carriageway works to be undertaken in mid/late September will require a road closure from Sunday until Tuesday. JB asked whether a Registered Social Landlord has been appointed to administer the affordable housing. MN advised that discussions are continuing. RH asked about the number of allocated parking spaces. MN advised 130 which is less than one per property. Residents can pay to use the car park. MN reported that parking charges in Parkway will be slightly higher than in Council car parks. NC confirmed that this was in accordance with the agreement between West Berks and SLI.

JHB advised that Barclays Bank will be relocating both Newbury Branches to Parkway.

KU presented a communications plan and leaflet covering parking arrangements when Parkway opens. This will be issued from 3 October.

DAP presented a base map. The final version may cover a wider area. Layers will then be added to produce a suite of maps covering various aspects such as transport, retail, hospitality and services. These will be accessible from the website. Comments and observations are invited. Car Park maps will also be replaced.

SB commented on the lack of information for people arriving by coach. DAP confirmed that the new maps would be available from the Tourist Information Centre. NC advised that the cost of updating the signage would be prohibitive. GH advised that there are town maps produced by commercial organisations. The Councils have no control over these.

JB confirmed that the contract for the variable highway signs has been placed and 50-60 fixed signs are being installed or replaced.

PA advised that there will be a full discussion on Parkway at the September meeting which will be held on 23 September so all key members can attend.

Events & Communication

An update will be circulated. The next event will be Animal awareness at the end of August. JW reported that the Sarruga Les Insects event had been very successful with about 5000 people attending. Forthcoming events include Page Blanche in early October and Halloween Hullabaloo on 30 October. PA asked if there was scope for daytime events. JW explained that these are more difficult logistically. DAP will present 2012 opportunities at the next meeting.

DJH reported that BID communications are appearing in the Advertiser.

Finance & Strategy

The financial reports were circulated. PA confirmed that outstanding contributions are being followed up.

BID Group LC reported that about 250 businesses have been consulted. Only 5 are definitely opposed although a number are still undecided. M&S and Wilkinson head offices support the BID in principle. Russell Downing has presented to Newbury Task Group and will also present to Rotary, Newbury Society and Newbury Business Network. Richard Benyon and Robin Rickard are in favour and this has received good radio coverage. Discussions with the shopping centres are proceeding satisfactorily. A number of themed meetings have been arranged and another newsletter produced. Eligible businesses are being encouraged to use the website to vote for services as the response has been a bit slow. GH suggested that a deadline be set. JB reported that the Environment Agency has secured funding to undertake a Newbury Flood Alleviation Scheme. They are seeking a contribution of £500k from other agencies which could be incorporated into the BID projects. NC said the project is likely to start before the BID is finalised. PA requested information be circulated.

Police Report AN reported that Liquid's license is under review following the recent disturbance. The manager has been replaced and polycarbonate glasses and bottles will be used in future. There is a focus on Victoria Park following reports of anti social behaviour.

Vision 2025 No update was available. Discussions about the future of the vision post BID are ongoing.

Newbury T.C. GH reported that the Heritage Lottery Fund Bid is progressing well for submission by 31 August. In relation to Victoria Park the Town Council passed the following resolution;

- (1) That this council supports the principle of appropriate modest development in Victoria park that meets the reasonable need of the park's users and service providers and of the Council as the park's guardians and maintainers.
- (2) However, this Council is opposed to any development in Victoria Park or its surroundings that is overbearing on the Park and its setting, particularly in the context of the revised plans for the Parkway development to accommodate John Lewis.
- (3) The new and re provided arts and leisure facilities in the town centre are welcomed in principle by this Council, however this Council believes that the case for locating such facilities in Victoria Park has not been made and

cannot be countenanced unless supported by a majority of Newbury residents.

The Music on the Market campaign is continuing. The Council have registered on the BID website. Officers will prepare project definitions for the projects originally suggested. Wilkinsons have agreed to sponsor the Market Place Christmas tree.

Safety and Security sub group meeting scheduled for 12 October
Accessibility, Parking and Transport sub group meeting scheduled for 9 September.

West Berkshire Report

PB reported that the inspector's report on planning policy is awaited. Measures are being taken to exercise more control over the Michaelmas Fair. A letter in the NWN regarding the disturbance at Liquid contained inaccuracies. A response was made but not published. Additional night time taxi ranks are in operation. NC confirmed that Northbrook St will be tidied up prior to Parkway opening. BB remarked on the anomaly regarding parking fees switching from variable to flat rates at 6.00 pm. NC will discuss with Mark Cole.

N.R.A.

BB advised that the next meeting will be held in September. Trading conditions remain difficult and there is concern over the number of empty properties on Northbrook St. It is hoped that Parkway will revitalise the town.

AOB

GH confirmed that he will distribute notes of the Safety and Security committee.

Next Meeting

23 September at Shaw House. **Please note the change of date**

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

21 October 11

18 November 11