

Minutes WTP meeting 12th May 2015

Apologies: Gordon Rodgers Malcolm Basing Kevin Maskell Alan Wesley Stuart Merrylees

Present: Jane Hunter Bill Curtis Nick Tonge Zoe Colbeck Diana Esler Eddie Boyle Alison Burt Vivien Sheffield Lesley Moore Caroline Coker

1. **Minutes of meeting 26th February** were agreed. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th July 6.30pm**
2. **CIC Incorporation:** JH reported that CIC bank account is now open and forms have been submitted to NatWest for signatories to be SM NT & JH. MB has asked that a formal meeting of the old WTC be held to move the money to the new account and to provide a letter authorising him to close it. **Action: BC**
3. **Defibrillator:** No further news from RB
4. **Airport consultations:** Biggin Hill expansion plans have been approved. WTP has taken no further action. EB confirmed WTC has objected to Gatwick's expansion.
5. **Drain clearance:** No further action
6. **Telephone box** on Verrells Corner: **Action BC** to commission a lock, to be paid for by Westerham Society.
7. **Finance:** BC reported that between the two bank accounts the WTP has a credit of about £4,000. Monies have been received from the Community Play account closure
8. **Late Night Shopping.** JH would like to help re-launch the Retailers Association and to support them in running Late Night Shopping this year. JB Gill has agreed to do the switch on. **Action JH/EB**
9. **Commercial service on website:** WTP (**JH/AB/SM/BC**) currently trialling a website service to allow commercial posts on the Visit Westerham website. At the same time the WTP is exploring the concept of supporting a 'Westerham Week' of a retailer-wide discount of say 10% and advertising the event as a town-wide shopping event. BC is purchasing counter collection boxes for the Retailers. Monies raised from these steps would be reinvested

into town projects e.g. Xmas lights. **Action: JH/AB/BC/EB/Hannah Marsh.**

10. **Xmas Lights** **Action: Hannah Marsh, EB and JH** have reviewed the quotes for the wish list and will meet James Tyson (who is the cheapest) to instruct immediately. JH expressed concern with James Tyson's quote, which seemed to contain mistakes. **Action: JH and HM** to procure permissions from building owners to attach eaves/gutter strings. EB explained that this year management of James Tyson will be much more forthright. WTP discussed a donation of £500 to the fund this year.

11. **Overflow Car Park:** BC explained that quotes were in and Steve Mercer seems to be the best value at £26,000. Planning application is about 2 weeks into the process. BC confirmed that there is a shortfall in funding, although an Economic Grant Application is about to be submitted to SDC. WTP is inclined to let funding matters take their course and take a reactive not a proactive role. In the meantime the 28-day rule is being used to open at weekends. ZC explained that at Easter the Chartwell car park had to close for 4 hours, drastically reducing visitor numbers...which in turn fed through to gridlock in Westerham with a number of complaints on social media.

ZC mentioned that Chartwell will be applying for permission to strengthen their overflow car park surface, and that it would be good to have feedback on the town's grass-protection. **Action: JH** agreed to respond to a formal enquiry.

12. **Talk of the Town:** BC explained the plan for the weekend of 4/5/6 September, to include a number of costumed individual characters from Westerham's history, who will have been briefed about their character's life. VS will be organising the Sunday procession, JO to provide costumes, BC to brief characters. There will be a Lyons Corner House tent on the Green with music, and the weekend will culminate in a cabaret at Valence School, lead by our patron Sir Richard Stilgoe and a choir from Orpheus. WTP to support with publicity and communication. **Action: VS** to draft appeal for volunteer characters

13. **Farmers Market.** SM Gordon Rodgers and Larry Larratt are organising with support from BC. Various suggestions for more

stalls were made: Lions with household preserves, Beckenham Village Sausage Shop, LM will pass to SM the phone number of a young man offering to fetch fish in Madan Road, the haberdasher from Bromley Market. The meeting agreed the market would benefit if could be expanded. The market will be moving to Park Farm on 7th June to support Open Farm Day.

14. **Memorial Pavilion:** LM explained the consultation is complete, we await the draft plans from BB architects, and a proposal to be drawn up to present via APFOS to the Full Council 13th July. In the meantime a 'holding' statement will be drawn up **Action LM** for publication on the website and social media.
15. **Communications.** VisitWesterham website needs to upgrade and Joomla3 and Wordpress migration are being considered. Discussion on-going supported by our host Malcolm Goodwin of Pretty Perfect. Facebook has 2700 'friends' with a further 630 following the page: Twitter has 1240 followers.
16. **Talking Statues:** Alex Bloor has volunteered to develop the technology; we await planning guidance from SDC about plaques on statues. **Action ZC** offered to put BC in touch with an actor who might portray Churchill. **Action BC** to develop a script for the statue.
17. **Other Westerham events:** Rotary Fair 16th May. WTP has supported with publicity
18. **AOB**
 - a) ZC requested advertising support for the NT lecture series **Action JH** agreed to include in town diary.
 - b) DE requested support for the SDC business advisory service: WTP agreed to support
19. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th July 6.30pm**

