

Notes of Dursley Business Inclusive meeting

Town Hall

Friday 9th September 2016

Present

Martin - Kings head, Wayne and Alison - carnival committee, Vicky - Simply footcare, Michelle - Hummingbird, Mandy (treasurer) - Wildwood flowers, Margaret - The Pet shop, Jane - Tolsey Two, Suzi (chair) - Hummingbird, Denver (vice chair) - Inter sound, Caroline (secretary) – Inches, John – Town Council, Neil - Town Mayor .

Apologies

Matt - Courtyard Clinic, Councillor Lydon, Viv - Simply Footcare, Tom – KCA Training,

Our Neighbourhood Plan

Mayor Neil Grecian gave a short presentation on the *Future Dursley, neighbourhood improvement plan*. He gave the background to the work done so far. 4 years ago the government came up with idea that as part of relooking at planning, all villages and towns should have neighbourhood/ town plan written by the local community not the district council. It has to be led by volunteers and so this why it has taken time. The draft plan should be ready early next year and then go to referendum in late summer next year.

We looked at the draft vision and he clarified points as we went through.

Civic parish of Dursley which is covered by the parish council stretches from the police station along the road to Uley stopping at Rockstowes.

The local volunteer groups had wondered if Dursley should join with Cam as each group plan was both dependent on each other. However, they stayed as separate groups since funding was available for each. This meant twice as much funding for the same area and there is an agreement to liaise with each other as the plans emerge.

The group has been out with plan to local events such as the flower and produce show, schools, and stands under the town hall, to try and engage with as many people as possible and gather various views.

Any further planning permission now, after Littlecombe, will probably be infill.

He said that Dursley is gradually getting promoted to a wider field especially with the popularity of the walking festival (booklets handed out) and with the forthcoming Grand Designs programme about the Tree House on 21st September.

A survey has shown that employment has changed a lot in the town, no longer have a large business but there are lots of small businesses employing quite a few people.

They recognise that parking is one of the major concerns for both business and residential needs. Acquisition of land for car parking from private landlords is very difficult at the moment and at present land is costed as building potential putting the price high. It is basically down to money. The Council will need to borrow the money to purchase for parking there is no money coming down nationally for help.

On the sheet where it says project there is not a fixed plan for that at the moment and so there is still time for input for all of these. The Town improvement Steering group meets monthly next meeting next wed 7pm and not too late if anyone wants to join the group. They meet at the Council Office in Jacob's House.

We discussed that people getting off the bus in town see the library first and this has started to look shabby and that the grey wall is not welcoming and lively!

AGENDA FOR BUSINESS

Carnival update

It was great to have Alison and Wayne at the meeting for the first time. They updated on progress so far. The Carnival will be on 15th July 2017. It will be an all day event with stuff in the town and on the Rec. There will be a traditional Carnival procession that will be through the town and there will be entertainment in the town. They are hoping to bring everyone for the surrounding villages and Towns, the invitation has been extended to them all to come and take part. There will also be stalls and big event up on the Rec in the afternoon. The Theme will be 'Dursley through the years.' They have lots of fundraising ideas throughout the year to draw the community out before the event. Suzi said that the DBI will support as much as possible and look forward to working with the committee for the carnival.

Blackberry barn dance

Everything is planned and arranged we just need to encourage ticket sales. Tickets will be available on the door. Advertising has gone out on Dursley Matters, posters in most businesses in Town and on Radio Gloucestershire.

Festive committee

Meeting postponed so no new update.

Chairperson for DBI

Suzi has had to step down leaving the position vacant but as Suzi will not be working in town and may find it difficult to get back in time for meetings. Due to time constraints this was not discussed further.

There is a post meeting additional information from Suzi as below:

- I am delighted to inform you that DBI have been awarded £750.00 by Dursley Council to be used against the costs of the design and printing of the New Dursley Brochure and Map. We can now finally move forward and complete this project.
- I would like to thank every member of DBI (past and present) for their support and contribution to the group, I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as Chair of DBI over the last nearly 3 years. I will still attend the meetings when I can and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Date of the next meeting

Thursday 13th October, 5.30pm at Jacob's House.