



Shepton 21 Regeneration Partnership
70 High Street · Shepton Mallet · BA4 5AS · 01749 346386
www.shepton21.org.uk · mail@shepton21.org.uk

Management Committee Meeting Sept 24th 2008

Present

Paul Hooper, Robert Gilderthorp, Janet Kinison, Paul Tomlinson, Zena Pollard
Jo Christoforides, Guy Braga, Lorraine Pratten, Alan Stone

Apologies

David Brown, Chris Inchley, Sonia Pike, Margaret Robinson

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Shepton in Bloom - MP and Zena to see Roger Eddy.

Treasurers report. Nothing outstanding.

Market – more stalls are coming.

Facelift Project

Paul Tomlinson attended to address this issue. The problem is that nothing much has happened: work at One Craft has stalled as Rowena has been in America; Delicious Deli hasn't started. (Jo was told business is on the market.)

Pauline from the antique shop wanted a grant for her own and for Chris Challis's shop but that has ground to a halt.

Paul's concern is that we are vulnerable as a group. Need to prove we are doing the best we can in a difficult time financially, and to tell people what we are doing.

Margaret went to the CMTP meeting and gave a factual report on the applications to date.

MP to follow up on all applications and visit other properties. A press statement will be issued after One Craft is finished. Mr Ambrosini enquired about his property, as did Nick at the bakers. MP will follow up.

There was some discussion about increasing the percentage of grant, but decided not.

Something may be happening with Mums and Tums! Paul has been in touch.



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Historic Plaques

Paul Tomlinson said that we are two or three weeks away from having the historic plaques ready. The design has been improved somewhat.

THI

There are similar problems to the Facelift Project.

There will be a Heritage Fair on Oct 25th held in the Academy and the Market Place. There are twenty five definite exhibitors so far.

John Maine won an award for his restoration work, and will open the house to the public on the day of the Heritage Fair. Rob will arrange for the church tower to be open.

Market Cross – work has been specified. Tenders are out, and repairs will probably start next month.

The Academy front is being done with level access. Also, the tree is going.

Heritage Matters is a magazine going to many listed building owners and it will carry an ad for the Fair. Paul will also circulate fliers and brief Fran Wheelan

Better Businesses Meeting

Alan has organised this at Kilver Court from 6.30pm ‘til 9.00pm on Tuesday 22 October 2008.

Food crawl

Alan has arranged this for 30th October. Tickets from the TIC.



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Crematorium

Richard Reakes kindly attended the meeting to tell us about a proposed crematorium for Shepton Mallet.

Mendip DC have been very keen to find a firm who will build one to serve the whole of Mendip, and found one called Memoria. Richard was shown round one of their crematoria and also attended a meeting with clergy and funeral directors in Wells.

The site will be at the junction of junction of Ridge Lane and Old Wells Road.

Considerable concerns were voiced about access to the site - it's a narrow road – but that will no doubt be a consideration for the planners.

The facility will only have only have one ‘cremator’. The plan is for 750 cremations in the first year. Services will be forty-five minutes rather than the usual thirty minutes.

The application will be in by the end of this month. If it is passed, it could be up and running by end of September next year.

Michael to circulate map.





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Chairman's Report

The Health and Safety policy reviewed was adopted but with the deletion of the provision for a first aider.

Paul Hooper suggested we set a review date for the date of the AGM, thus making the progress automatic.

The Equal Opportunity policy was also adopted..

It was noted that we need an Environmental Policy.

There is a grant application outstanding to incorporate the S21, Chamber of Commerce, Town Council and TIC websites under the broad headings of Civic, Business, Tourism and Leisure. (To be finalised in discussion with LP.)

The sites will be accessible from their individual addresses, but run on a common database under the surface giving lots of possibilities for data sharing.

Many different voluntary and not-for-profit groups will be offered free space, linking to the main site for search engine optimisation.

In addition, it is intended to provide free WiFi access for up to 60 food and/or accommodation providers; eventually, the whole town. This is a system whereby small amounts of existing bandwidth are used to provide a free service.

Users will log on to a common front page which will give lots of opportunity for advertising. It is also intended to suggest to the Town Council we have our own town server which should pay for itself.

Young People

Andrea the Youth Worker says that the young people may use the Methodist Hall for open mic nights. MP to finalise. The suggestion also made that the Baptist Chapel could be used as that has been done up specifically for music.

Baptist Chapel has been done up for music. MP to follow up. (There is also a 24/7 prayer room in there too.)

Marketing the Town

One of S21's core priorities is to market the town. MP is to arrange a series of meetings to begin the process.



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Treasurers Report

(To be emailed. (There is just under £25k available.)

Links

We are now part of the whole Strawberry Line – Clevedon to Cranmore. Cheddar to Wells and there is a planning application going in.

On the railway line, there has been an initial study by Atkins Rail – a ‘toolkit’ outlining the cost of the track bed, transport works order details: the ‘nitty gritty’. We will next need a spatial report which will include working out the route.

CATEC

Guy Braga informed the meeting that the study is going well. Roger Tim Partners have done a lot of work, with very thorough consultation on the business side.

The architects will also run through some options.

If it is one building, then there are significant costs. A huge one could be as much as £5.9 million, a more modest one as little as £1 million.

There were originally very positive noises from the RDA, but over the past few months they have changed shape, and it seems very unlikely that they will now provide funding.

Guy will set up meeting with Leister Scott. His feeling is that we should spend the money we have already for the feasibility study, and complete that, and then look for the overall building funding.

The report noted that, most of the businesses are small and in the finance sector. Next is food manufacturing. There is quite a large proportion of migrant workers. Also, there is a very high proportion of young people who don’t have the necessary qualifications. There is a demand for ‘incubator space’.

Even with Whitstone and Strode educational input, there is still a big gap. We need to support youth and starting creative industry.

Guy has spoken to Kevin Newton who has expressed interest in the project.



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Youth

MP is to provide some computers and instruction for the young people Andrea is working with.

Events

14th October a funders evening in Glastonbury Town Hall
22nd October Better Business – Kilver Court.
Conservation fair on the 25th.
Food crawl on 30th.

Sculpture

We are awaiting a grant decision on a roman soldier at Whitstone Roundabout.

Road signs

Guy has sourced a manufacturer, and the next step is a town and local area walkabout to pinpoint the sites, and then a discussion with other interested parties, in particular the Town Council.

Cenotaph

This is now rearing its head again as a new councillor wants to move it. (Janet)

Enhanced Market

Conflict about who pays for the umbrellas. Before she left, Cathy Day said she Mendip would pay an extra £5 for every umbrella. MP to liaise with Stuart Finney.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th 5.30 October for next meeting.