



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

Management Committee Meeting

25th November 2008

Present

Zena Pollard, Chris Inchley, Sonia Pike, Jo Christoforides, Janet Kinison, Lorraine Pratten, Alan Stone, Cllr Dick Skidmore & Mike Perry

Apologies for Absence

Guy Braga, Margaret Robinson, Ian Jarman, Rob Gilderthorp, Paul Hooper

The meeting welcomed Cllr Dick Skidmore representing MDC.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Margaret Robinson has heard some adverse comment on the proposed crematorium. The highways authority have been looking at it and measuring the roads. S21 is neutral.

LINKS

Guy Braga and Dave Brown met on site. Dave Brown has taken a lot of photographs and they will plot on the map where interpretation boards are likely to be necessary and which parts need work. They will meet again.

Shepton in Bloom

The Outreach Group of St Peter and St Pauls will join Shepton In Bloom.

Chris Inchley has met with the cricket club. There is the possibility of an extension at West Shepton. One idea was the Mid Somerset ground. The Town Council will discuss further.

Dick Skidmore asked how reliant on Shepton 21 is on local authority money, and Zena replied that we have had nothing since the LABGI money.

Project Development

Mike Perry has been advertising the market and getting performers with some increase in footfall. One suggestion was that Mendip Drummers be approached. MDC have not used done much to market the market.

Dick Skidmore raised the subject of free parking, and commented that there is a general requirement to raise money from car parking, so free parking is unlikely.

The enhanced market is usually the first Friday of every month, but the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony is on 28th with Father and Mother Christmas appearing during the day and the ceremony in the evening.

Facelift

There has been a slow take-up because there is not much money about. THI has experienced much the same. MP continues to encourage shopkeepers.



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One suggestion was to ask Andrew Edwards if he will be doing up the front of his building. It was also suggested MP contacts Mad Hatters.

Historic Plaques

MP asked to find out who did historic plaques in Wells.

LINKS

There are somewhat sensitive issues to do with land ownership, but the general progress is good and the Strawberry Line is making very encouraging progress.

CATEC

Harvey Siggs has instructed officers that the project is to stop. Since this is Shepton 21's flagship project, ZP will write to MDC.

What has come out of the consultants' reports, which are 99% complete, is the suggestion that, lacking overall funding, it would be entirely feasible to phase development in such a way that the Town Hall would be built first but allow for the other parts of the scheme to be built on the same site later.

Youth

The original intention was about a skate park, youth forum and a youth café which didn't happen, but Will Dunscombe has obtained £20k to build the skateboard park. The meeting asked MP to write to Will congratulating him.

Christmas Arrangements

MP to send pdf to everybody with details

Marketing Community Outreach

MP and ZP have started a process of seeing some of the larger companies in Shepton to discuss how best to market the community and to network. MP has had a lot of contact with town centre retailers and will be arranging a meeting.

New Town Website

SCC have approved a grant to create 4 new websites for Shepton running on a common database. They will be 'Civic', 'Business', 'Tourism' and 'Leisure'.

The idea is:

- Present a more dynamic image of the town to the outside world that accurately reflects the vibrant, attractive community this is.
- Make cost savings.
- Keep information up to date more easily.
- Give residents a new focal point.
- Support the TIC.



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- Attract new business.
- Encourage e-commerce.
- Utilise data more efficiently.
- Involve schools and young people.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

This starts on 16th Dec at the Academy and we were urged both to support and to publicise it. On 6th December there is a 70s night and information available from TIC.

AOB

Lorraine Pratten asked when the CAB is going in to the Market Place. The builders start at the beginning of January, but fire safety is poor and that is holding up the building regs. It should be ready four weeks after the builders move in.

The ground floor will be for drop in; the first floor for project workers with tenants on the top floor.

Food Crawl

Alan Stone reported that it was a huge success, and felt we should do a summer one. All agreed.

It was felt that Mendip food and Drink should be driven by the TICs and noted that Mendip are reviewing funding. There could easily be a saving of £30k from the Somerset Tourism Partnership which is not working.

TICs

All agreed it is essential to keep the TICs in general and Shepton Mallet's in particular, but noted it will need a lot of pushing to keep it, though MDC look on Shepton TIC as the best in Mendip. We need to be discussing this issue, but it is difficult until we know what MDC's approach will be.

War Memorial

Janet Kinison reported that this is finished but the name plate is pitted and needs further work.

Minutes

MP was asked to post minutes on the website.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in January, date and venue to be announced.