

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: C Cox; R MacKenzie; D Swain (Chairman)
Mr M Tobin (Vice-Chairman), Swan Hotel / Visit Somerset
Ms C Winter, Wells Civic Society
Mr A Webb, Wells Museum/Visitor Information
Ms T Chichester, 'B&B' representative
M Johns, Wells Chamber of Commerce
Mrs R Martin, The Bishop's Palace

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
Cllr A Gibson (The Mayor)
Mr A Fawcett

16/49CT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: C Wride; J North
Ms L Mann, Wells Cathedral
Ms S Cooper, Mr D Cooper, Wells Film Centre

16/50CT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

16/51CT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th **SEPTEMBER 2016** were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

16/52CT MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

16/53CT PROMOTING THE CITY

'Visit by Coach' progress up-date:
A report had been circulated by e-mail; Mr Webb and Mr Johns provided further details. Improving the visitor arrival experience at the bus station, and the links with coach drivers, were important points.
Stills of the new website were available for members to see.
There was a discussion about future management of an increase in coach numbers.
All agreed that Mr Jeffries has a positive, active approach and that input from some one new coming from outside is proving very beneficial.

16/54CT V.I.S. (VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICE) PROPOSALS

Mr Webb had circulated his proposals and had replied to questions by e-mail. He said that he would value informal input of views from a broader cross section of stakeholders. He answered further questions and there was discussion around various formats. The Town Clerk answered questions about the procedures for local council committees and sub-committees, and accountability for public funds. Members felt that there was no need to set up another group and there was a reluctance to attend more, duplicate, meetings. It was agreed that informal discussions follow on from the Forum meetings.

- 16/55CT PARKING** Up-dates:
- i. Feedback was provided in the Visit by Coach report.
 - ii. The Town Clerk was asked to follow up actions arising from a site meeting between the Chamber of Commerce and SCC Highways regarding signage.
 - iii. It was agreed that generally there are sufficient car parking spaces in the city; signage is the problem. The Mayor reported on the recent session held by District Councillor Nigel Taylor at the City Council meeting, where he noted members' comments on the subject; she offered to contact him and follow this up.
 - iv. Details of a forthcoming road closure for resurfacing will be checked.

16/56CT 2016 EVENTS
See attached list.

- 16/57CT ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT**
- i. Congratulations were given to Paddy O'Hagan and organisers of the Wells Food Festival, on such a successful event.
 - ii. Terri Chichester was congratulated on receiving the Mendip Business Award.
 - iii. The White Hart were congratulated on winning "4 in a Bed"!
 - iv. Wells Film Festival will continue in 2017, dates to be announced.
 - v. The Chairman has made contact with the Forum's counterpart group in Glastonbury.

16/58CT DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING 6pm on Wednesday 9th November 2016

PUBLIC EVENTS / ROAD CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE CITY OF WELLS 2016

Note: This listing attempts to identify major events likely to cause significant additional traffic or other disruption. Notifications of any other such events will be gratefully received.

October:	FESTIVALS
14 th – 22 nd	Wells Festival of Literature
24 th – 28 th	Resurfacing works New Street, The Liberty

November:	
18 th November	Wells Carnival
16-19 th November	Charter Fair (Fun Fair), Market Place
20 th November	Installation of the Dean, Cathedral
21-22 November	Christmas lights go up: city centre

December:	
4 th December	Reindeer Parade
11 th December	Wells Brocante Fair
21-24 th December	Wells Christmas Market (MDC)

2017	
w/c 9 th January	Christmas lights come down

March	The Legal Service, Market Place
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