

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM MEETING HELD IN THE EAST ROOM,
WELLS TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Swain (Chairman); C Wride
Mr M Tobin (Vice-Chairman), Swan Hotel / Visit Somerset
Mr A Fawcett, Wells Civic Society
Mr D Cooper, Wells Film Centre
Ms L Mann, Wells Cathedral
Mr A Webb, Wells Museum/Visitor Information

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
Cllr. M Brandon
Cllr. J North (City and District Councillor; Chairman of Wells Recreation Ground Trust)
Mr A l'Anson, Wells Neighbourhood Plan
Mr T Hopkins, Ms F Andrews, White Hart Hotel

16/39CT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: C Cox; R MacKenzie
Ms C Winter, Ms S Cooper,
Ms T Chichester, 'B&B' representative
M Johns, Wells Chamber of Commerce
Mrs R Martin, The Bishop's Palace

16/40CT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr North declared a personal interest as member, in any matter relating to Mendip District Council.

16/41CT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on **13th JULY 2016** were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

16/42CT MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

16/43CT DEPUTY MAYOR'S PROJECT

Cllr North spoke about the new destination play area at the Wells Recreation Ground. This will attract tourists as well as serving people from Wells and the locality.
The WRG Trust is planning a Family Fun and Fitness Day to celebrate the opening of the new play area and to introduce the additional provision of adult gym equipment. Cllr North is hoping to involve the City Council in this Health and Well-Being project. He described the range of activities that might be available on the day, for which grant funding is available.

16/44CT PROMOTING THE CITY

'Visit by Coach' progress up-date:
The project has begun with research into existing tours and operator arrangements. An initial feedback meeting with the Steering Group is due to take place towards the end of September.

16/45CT PARKING

Sadler Street coach bay:
After some initial discussions around changing the wording of the coach bay parking restrictions, concerns have centred around public health and safety, with the emphasis on highway safety.

There was a lengthy debate, with the following points raised:

- i. There are now so many coaches that double-parking is a safety hazard, causing frequent traffic backlogs up into The Liberty and New Street.
- ii. Close the coach bay and direct all coaches to drop off and pick up at the bus station, like they always used to
- iii. Close the coach bay except for use by coaches dropping off to the hotels (install locking bollards and a permit system)
- iv. Reduce/remove cost for coaches parking at the bus station
- v. At present, going to Clark's Village is cheaper/easier for drivers, incentive to visit Wells is needed
- vi. Closing/changing the coach bay would involve changing the directional signage
- vii. Directing coaches straight to the bus station would keep them out of the High Street (city centre traffic reduction, safety)
- viii. Coach passengers prefer the same drop off and pick up point – they will find their way from the bus station to the cathedral and Bishops Palace thus walking through the town too. If dropped off in one place (coach bay) and picked up somewhere else (bus station) they always worry about finding their pick-up point, so hurry straight there
- ix. Having so many coaches is a good problem to have!!

In conclusion the following were agreed:

- Await feedback and opinion from 'Travel by Coach' assessment
- Cllr North was asked to enter discussions with MDC regarding cost of coach parking at the bus station
- The Chairman had contacted County Cllr John Osman on this matter; the Town Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Osman to keep him informed and ask if he has any other suggestions; also request that he discuss coach parking solutions with Cllrs Siggs and North.
- The emphasis of the meeting was that this is a positive matter; there is an up-lift in tourism and this is excellent; an unfortunate outcome is that there are now so many coaches that a Highway safety issue has been generated.

16/46CT 2016 EVENTS

See attached list.

16/47CT ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr North asked the meeting to note that the organisers of the Moat Boat Race have asked for help in order to keep the event afloat.
- ii. The Town Clerk gave an up-date on progress of the filming protocol being coordinated by MDC to assist with locations. The City has benefited from donations by some film companies; these are being used to make small improvements to heritage features.
- iii. Andy Webb has circulated a report on VIS activities.
- iv. The new manager from the White Hart introduced himself and was welcomed. See 'Four in a Bed', screening during the autumn!
- v. The Chairman will invite a representative from a similar group in Glastonbury to speak at the next meeting, to share ideas and experiences.

16/48CT DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING 6pm on Wednesday 12th October 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.

10 th September	Heritage Open Day, Town Hall
18 th September	Freeman's 'Party in the Square', Market Place
October:	FESTIVALS
9 th October	Food Festival, Market Place & Recreation Ground
14 th – 22 nd	Wells Festival of Literature
18 th November:	Wells Carnival - city
16-19 th November	Charter Fair (Fun Fair), Market Place
20 th November	Installation of the Dean, Wells Cathedral
21-22 November	Christmas lights go up: city centre
4 th December	Reindeer Parade
11 th December	Wells Brocante Fair
21-24 th December	Wells Christmas Market (MDC)
20 th , 21 st December	Candlelight services, Wells Cathedral
2017	
w/c 9 th January	Christmas lights come down