

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM HELD IN THE COUNCIL**  
**CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 6.00PM**

**PRESENT:**                   **Committee Members:**  
Councillors: None present  
**Co-opted representatives:**  
Mr D Cooper in the Chair,  
Miss S Cooper, Wells Film Centre  
Mr R Powell, Wells Chamber of Commerce  
Ms L Mann, Wells Cathedral  
Ms R Martin, The Bishop's Palace  
Mr A Webb, Wells Museum Visitor Information Service  
Ms C Winter, Wells Civic Society  
Mr A Fawcett, Wells Museum

**IN ATTENDANCE:**   Town Clerk: F White  
Cllr M Brandon  
County Cllr. T Munt  
1 member of the public

**18/01CT      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

J North (The Mayor), D Swain (Chairman), C Wride (Deputy Mayor)  
Mr M Tobin, Hotels / Visit Somerset (Vice-Chairman)  
Ms T Chichester, B&B representative  
Ms A Howarth, Wells Almshouses

**18/02CT      DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

**18/03CT      MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on **2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017** were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

**18/04CT      MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None wishing to speak

**18/05CT      REPORTS**

i.       'Visit by Coach' project

Ms Mann gave a summary from the operator's report:

- 246 coaches were counted at the bus station during the last quarter of 2017
- 11<sup>th</sup> January the City will be assessed for accreditation for 'Coach Friendly Destination' status
- The DVD has been dubbed in several languages and is doing well on social media
- The target for 2018 is to increase 'dwell-time' in the City; encourage coaches to stay for longer, on a targeted visit, rather than a combination with another destination
- Wells is shortlisted for the British Coach Tourism Award

Meet and Greet team:

- Volunteers report a reduction in coaches dropping of at Sadler Street, the drivers like the Meet and Greet at the bus station. Volunteers are invited to go onto the coaches and give arrival information, directions, maps, etc. The drivers are very appreciative of this, and of their meal vouchers.

ii.      Wells bus station enhancements

The Town Clerk reported Wells City Council has reached an agreement with MDC to install planters and benches in the waiting areas. Improvements to

the ticket office are under way; a base will also be available there for the meet and greet team.

iii. Car park signage

The project awaits funding approval; County Councillor to discuss with Town Clerk.

Mr Webb reported he understands the Mayor has had sight of the MDC car parks data and looks forward to receiving further information.

iv. 'Changing Places' accessible toilet project

The Town Clerk reported the project to install the facility is under way and funding in place. This news was met with great enthusiasm and appreciation of the benefits.

**18/06CT 2018 EVENTS** See attached list

As the city becomes even more busy and active everyone recognises the positive effects, also the need to coordinate.

Organisers are urged to provide dates as early as possible, even if provisional.

This list relates to large events involving road closures or traffic disruption within the city.

**18/07CT ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT**

- i. The City Council was thanked for the Christmas lighting display.
- ii. The Town Hall was thanked for use of the defibrillator recently. It is understood the Rotary Club plan to provide one in a public open space; this is welcomed.
- iii. The Cathedral is being shortlisted for further tourism awards.
- iv. Christmas market: there was plenty of positive feedback and some requests for improvements. The Town Clerk was asked to invite the organisers from MDC to attend the next meeting, to receive comments and discuss next year.
- v. Visit Somerset: Andy Webb reported they are asking the accommodation providers whether a regional accreditation scheme is required.
- vi. Wells Museum: Andrew Fawcett reported on the 'Save Our Swan' campaign. It was agreed the swan is very iconic for Wells.
- vii. Civic Society: Chris Winter reported on some very interesting American published material featuring Wells as a heritage destination. She also reported there is good progress with the 'Wells in Mosaic' project.

**18/08CT DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** 6pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

## **PUBLIC EVENTS / ROAD CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE CITY OF WELLS 2018**

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. These may also be days when it would not be appropriate to arrange another major event in the City.

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> -Tues 9th January	Christmas lights down
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Sports Skills for children, Cathedral Green
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	WI Banner Parade, Wells High St
Sunday 29th April	'Half-Ciderthon' run; City centre & Wells area
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Wells Film Festival
Fri, Sat, 4-5 <sup>th</sup> May	May Charter Fair, Fun Fair Market Place
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> May	May bank holiday
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Somerset Day
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Vintage & Classic Cars, Cathedral Green
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Royal wedding
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Wells Fun Run
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Tortoise& Hare m/c Run, City centre
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Somerset Schools Folk Dance Festival
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Coast to Coast m/c rally. Market Place
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Boules Tournament, Market Place
Thur 12 <sup>th</sup> -Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Wells Orchestral Weekend. Theatre Festival
Sat - Sun 11-12 <sup>th</sup> August	Rail Wells Exhibition, Town Hall
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> August	Moat Boat Race
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Heritage Open Day; City centre venues
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Food Festival, City centre
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Poppy Concert, Town Hall
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	WWI commemoration Wells Cathedral
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	6am the lone piper, Wells Cathedral 11am Remembrance Services & Parade 12-4pm Wells Lions events? Wells Market Place? Wells Museum open 7pm Beacon lighting, Wookey Hole; City Band and British Legion
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Carnival and Charter Fair (Fun Fair)
Mon – Tues 19-20th November	Christmas lights go up
December ?	Reindeer Parade Christmas Market