

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2017 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Swain (Chairman); C Wride
Ms T Chichester, 'B&B' representative
Mr M Johns, Wells Chamber of Commerce
Ms L Mann, Wells Cathedral
Mrs R Martin, The Bishop's Palace
Mr A Webb, Wells Museum/Visitor Information

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
Administrator: C Pritchard-Williams
Cllrs: M Brandon; N Kennedy
G Tucker, Deputy Town Clerk, Glastonbury Town Council
S Goodwin, Wells Walking Tours

17/01CT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: C Cox; R MacKenzie; J North; T Robbins
Mr M Tobin (Vice-Chairman), Swan Hotel / Visit Somerset
Ms C Winter, Wells Civic Society
Ms S Cooper, Mr D Cooper, Wells Film Centre

17/02CT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

17/03CT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 9TH NOVEMBER 2016 were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

17/04CT PRESENTATION:

Improving the 'visitor offer' at Glastonbury.
The Glastonbury Officer gave a summary of recent developments; it was agreed that the two destinations can work well together.

17/05CT MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

17/06CT DESTINATION WELLS

Feedback from the Somerset Expo event 14-16 October.
A report was received from Mark Tobin.

17/07CT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Feedback from 2016

The lighting display had been very well received.
There were some difficulties with access to electricity supply and with obstruction of installation and take-down; Mr Johns offered assistance from the Chamber of Commerce in overcoming these problems.

17/08CT WEBSITE

Progress up-date on www.visitWellsSomerset
The new website was screened throughout the meeting. The Administrator gave a demonstration and took questions. Feedback seemed very positive; content was suggested and discussed. Mr Webb offered use of information from his accommodation listing; it was agreed to use trip advisor and to limit the range to BA5 post codes.

17/09CT PROMOTING THE CITY

Progress report from 'Visit by Coach' project:

- Michael Johns reported from a useful meeting with Cllr Nigel Taylor on parking and signage; he had promised some actions on various points.
- Cllr Swain reported the meeting has taken place with Cllr Osman, the Cathedral and the Swan Hotel management, regarding the Sadler St parking bay, this is the responsibility of Somerset County Council Highways; the matter now lies with Cllr Osman.
- Mr Johns has submitted the planning application to MDC for the pictures to the side of the building at the bus station.
- A meeting has been held with MDC regarding opening of the access to Market Street, an MDC officer is investigating.
- An MDC officer has said they will provide car park usage figures.
- A DVD is being produced for use on the coaches. This could also be put on the website /YouTube.
- 'Visit by Coach' has submitted an application for 'coach-friendly status' for Wells.

17/10CT 2017 EVENTS

See attached list.

17/11CT ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Christmas Market feedback: This generally seemed to be popular but was reported to be neither positive nor negative in terms of trade in the town and destination venues.
The Chamber of Commerce felt it needs to be more 'Christmassy' next time. They also said the free parking should not start till 10am as all the retailers used the spaces!
- ii. Items for the next agenda:
 - MTL funding for tourism projects in Wells
 - Visit Somerset and the Towns Forum
 - A summer newsheet for Wells?

17/12CT DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING 6pm on Wednesday 8th March 2017

PUBLIC EVENTS / ROAD CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE CITY OF WELLS 2017

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.

2017

w/c 9 th January	Christmas lights come down
Friday 10 th February	Film crew in Market Place
Sunday 19 th March	The Legal Service, Market Place
(Friday 14 th -Monday 17 th April	Easter)
26 th -30 th April	Wells Festival of Film 2017
(Monday 1 st May	May Day)
Friday-Saturday 5 th -6 th May	Fun Fair, Market Place
Sunday 28 th May	Fun Run (provisional date)
Sunday 4 th June	Wells in Bloom plant-out
Saturday 17 th June	Dancing on the Green
Sunday 25 th June	Ceremonial procession, Market Place (provisional)
Sunday 9 th July	Boules, Market Place
Sat-Sun 12-13 th August	Rail Wells exhibition, Town Hall
Monday 28 th August	Moat Boat Race
Sat-Sun 9-10 th September	Heritage Open Days
Sun 8 th October	Wells Food Festival
Fri 17 th November	Wells Carnival