

**Notes of the Wilton Town Team meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in the Council Chamber**

**Present**

**Jenna Downes** (Wilton Youth Club), **Peter Edge** (Wiltshire Councillor), **Jonathan Green** (Pastor, Wilton Baptist Church), **Phil Matthews** (Mayor and Chairman, Wilton Town Council), **Gary Nunn** (Wilton Community Carnival), **David Parker** (Chairman, Wilton & District Chamber of Commerce), **Ian Porter** (Membership Officer, Wilton & District Business Chamber), **Rose Salmi** (Leader, Wilton Youth Club), **Ken Taylor** (Chairman, Wilton Community Land Trust), **Mark Wood** (Wilton Parish Church), **David von Zeffman** (President, Wilton & District Business Chamber)

**1. Chairman's welcome, apologies and minuting**

DvZ welcomed all to the meeting.

He read out an e-mail from **Jackie Neylon** (Pembroke Arms Hotel), advising that she had been deployed elsewhere by Hillbrooke Hotels and would, reluctantly, no longer be able to attend Team meetings. She asked to be kept informed of events and offered her future assistance.

He noted, too, that **Catherine Purves** (Clerk Wilton Town Council) had, for personal reasons, stood down from The Team and thanked her for her input and support – both in taking minutes, and otherwise – since the Team's inception.

DvZ then indicated that he would minute the October meeting and asked for a vote that DP act as chairman. SH has undertaken to minute the November meeting.

*Apologies were received and noted* from **David Corp** (Wilton Shopping Village), **Stephen Harris** (Wiltshire Council Community Area Manager), **Peter Newall** (Wilton Church) and **Ian Pedliham** (Community Beat Manager, Wilton Town Police).

DP proposed that young people from the Youth Centre might, for experience and small remuneration, minute Team meetings, on a rota basis. RS agreed and the motion was passed. SH will minute the next meeting, with a nominated young person to observe.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record. There were no matters arising. KT undertook again to forward details of a Community Interest Company as they applied to the CLT, for consideration as to how The Team might be incorporated.

**3. Report from Wilton Community Land Trust**

- KT distributed further copies of materials from WCLT.
- He advised that the Redrow application for Wilton Hill had now been submitted and should appear on the planning portal on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> October. He reminded Team members that this is a hybrid application, with the residential element only appearing in detail.
- KT and PE, together with John Glen MP, had met with Redrow and partners to see the plans prior to submission. KT and PE support the submitted plans.
- He suggested that members study the application in detail, in order to ascertain the number of houses envisaged etc. and that they should note the content of:- the design and access statement, the community involvement report and the planning statement.

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- KT advised that Redrow have taken many local considerations on board and incorporated them in the plans and that much of the residential development would now be Code 4+, rather than Code 3.
- The planning process is NOT finished. Members of the public can, of course, register individual comment.
- PE indicated that Redrow might be prepared to make further concessions and that he, as Wiltshire Councillor for Wilton could still call the application in if he considered there to be sufficient objections raised on planning grounds.
- PE also advised that unless he calls it in, the application is unlikely to go to committee but will be considered by the planning officer, Andrew Bidwell, under delegated powers [members will recall, however, that Sarah Hughes, Planning Officer, met with Wilton Town Council and other parties in August 2013, advising that the Redrow application, because of its size and impact on the town, would be sent to Strategic Planning in Trowbridge: please see August's minutes].
- It was noted that the proposed skatepark did not appear on the plans, but that funding would be set aside for its construction elsewhere.

#### **Veterans' Centre**

Concerns were raised that Redrow seemed to be presenting the Wilton veterans' provision as a new idea, whereas it was already being successfully operated elsewhere in this part of the country, and the question was proposed as to whether the veterans' development at Wilton Hill would simply dilute the provision elsewhere (and serve to provide additional accommodation in Wilton which was not included in the 450 homes envisaged under the Core Strategy).

- PM provided an invitation from (Commander) Richard Lord to a meeting at 5pm on Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> October at Elizabeth Hall, Exeter St. to discuss the current provision for veterans, with a report by Matthew Bell from OurEnterprise re: Wilton Hill.
- DP asked what safeguards were in place to prevent Wilton following Shaftesbury, Gillingham etc., with a housing development without decent gardens, play areas etc.

#### **Wilton Station**

KT was again asked to draw an illustrative position for platforms on the existing railway lines passing through Wilton, to indicate where the proposed station might best be located.

There was a brief discussion as to what kind of survey would be required in order to establish the likely usage of the station by the local population.

#### **4. Report from the Wilton & District Business Chamber**

DvZ reported the following:

- The Chamber (and the Town) were reliant on support from Team members at Chamber events, which attracted visitors, and speakers, from outside, as well as from within, the Community Area,
- He urged members to support the next Chamber lunch **on 30<sup>th</sup> October at the Pembroke Arms**, when the guests will be Jane Scott (Leader Wiltshire Council) and Isobel Brown (Partnership Director S & WLEP) and at **The Wilton Event 2013**, a
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- “Business Meets Community”, rather than business-to-business, event **on 2<sup>nd</sup> November**, kindly hosted by Wilton Shopping Village.
- Ian Porter, who had undertaken the organising of The Event – almost single-handedly – reported:-
  - The event is being organised by Wilton & District Business Chamber, hosted by Wilton Shopping Village, sponsored by The Valley News and opened by the Mayor of Wilton and John Glen, MP.
  - There will be 25 exhibitors – a cross-section of the business community (the call for stalls had been such that Ian has been asking stall-holders to share), a morning gymnastics display and an afternoon fashion show, musicians, a range of vintage cars, a food marquee of award-winning local producers and an evening event, with live music and a hog roast. Evening tickets: £10
- IP, too, emphasised the need for Wilton organisations and team members to show their support for both the daytime and evening events.
- Set-up on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November will start at 0730. **VOLUNTEERS PLEASE.** Air cadets will assist (subject to official approval)
- DP advised that we need 100 tickets sold to break even on the evening event.
- All Team members were urged to “like” on Facebook, Twitter etc, to attend and to bring their family and friends
  
- IP asked RS to:-
  - a) chase up The Unit to see if any of the young people there would perform at The Event and
  - b) see if she could find some volunteers to model for Crazy Costume at the fashion show
  
- DP said that he would chase the Chamber’s Business Manager to ensure that Chamber members have provided promotional materials for display and distribution at The Event.
- It was noted that there was a potential clash with Wilton Rotary’s “Spireworks” on the same evening. The fact that Rotary had hoped, too, to have exhibitors at their event, had not been known to the Chamber, prior to commencing organisation of The Wilton Event. Rotary had now, however, undertaken to promote The Event and to suggest to attendees that they come on to the evening event to “round off” the fireworks evening.
- It was hoped that ART, or another Rotary representative, would be able to attend Team meetings more regularly in order to update on Rotary events (which item appeared on the agenda most months) and avoid future clashes of date
- PM said that he was concerned to hear of a “splinter” business group, after all of the work which consolidating the efforts of the various bodies within the town had achieved. DvZ advised that he had met with Helen White at See and Be and invited her to form a retail sub-committee of the Business Chamber, joining the committee and reporting to it. She had been receptive to the idea, but had not yet attended. He also advised that she had suggested that she had some ideas for Christmas in Wilton (and had again been invited to share these with both the Team and the Chamber, but that she had yet to do so). He also proposed to forward at the forthcoming traffic meeting the suggestion of 20-minute parking bays in part of West Street.

### **Christmas 2013 / 2014**

- DvZ said that he and GN had discussed a joint Chamber/Carnival/Team Christmas event for 2013. DP had suggested that some smaller businesses might combine this with their own staff party. The Pembroke Arms were offering a £25-a-head deal, with sole use of the Saddle Room, and a DJ, for parties of 65.
- Proposed dates were Friday 13<sup>th</sup>/Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The Pembroke were offering a DJ on Friday and Saturday nights only. The Chamber's Business Manager would investigate availability. PM said that the Town Council would support: KT said that WCLT might also do so.
- It was agreed that the Team/Town Council would convene a Christmas Committee from May 2014, with the Town Council responsible for advertising Christmas events, for fund raising (£3,000 for new lights: the Town Council has a budget of £300), ask Wilton Rotary for financial support and the Area Board for a grant. That committee would also propose a theme for all Wilton traders, apply for road closure authorisation and discuss reinstatement of the uplighting at St Mary's (where water had got into the lighting)
- DP suggested promoting the 'Shop Local for Christmas' campaign, via The Valley News, for 2013 and 2014.

### **Neighbourhood Planning**

- PM advised that the Town council had agreed at a full Council meeting in September to start the Neighbourhood Planning process and to request a link officer. The resulting application form had been onerous, with 12 enquiries to detail, and had yet to be completed.
- CP had advised of an OANB planning seminar available to Councillors on 15<sup>th</sup> October.
- Victoria Lawson, Housing Needs Support Officer, was booked to address the Town Council's Planning Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **Benchmarking**

- DvZ thanked the Town Council again for funding the £100 licence. Benchmarking had been particularly time-consuming as this was the first such exercise in Wilton, thus requiring an audit of all of the commercial units in the town and at WSV, counting parking spaces etc. to be done from scratch.
- The process had involved a day's training by AMT (alongside CP, who had since had to drop out of benchmarking), a further day copying and collating the 1000's of sheets required, a day training GN, Suzie Butters (and Sarah Ackroyd who, too, had been unable to continue) and counting parking spaces.
- He expressed thanks to GN for his much-appreciated assistance in going with him to deliver packs to each business and then collecting them 2 weeks' later, with further time "mopping up" and to GN and Suzie Butters for benchmarking on a "busy" and a "quiet" day in the town and at WSV. The data – including customers' postcodes - has then to be analysed and entered into a booklet for AMT to process and all of the questionnaires copied and sent off. The published report will include comparative data from other Wiltshire Market Towns.
- DP and PM thanked DvZ and GN for their hard work.

**AOB**

- DP reported on a Chamber lunch at DvZ's home, where Cllr Wayman had discussed the possibility of removing some double yellow lines in the town and indicated that Board funding may be available for a Town Gate.
- PM and DP reported on a discussion that both the Town and Council and the Team might adopt for 2014 a project to tidy up derelict buildings in the town. PM indicated that community asset transfer was to be discussed at a future TC meeting.
- The Mayor's Charity Evening – dinner, bar and "The Swinging Blue Jeans" is on Friday evening, 15<sup>th</sup> November at the Michael Herbert Hall. Tickets £25.
- The Community Carnival AGM is on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm at the Community Centre. One principal discussion will involve the venue for 2014 – at WSV or elsewhere ? Team members indicated their preference for WSV. DvZ asked if Wilton House might allow a vintage car display on the green facing WSV as well as use of Wilton House car park as an overflow carpark on Carnival day.
- It was agreed that The Team would continue to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in each month in 2014.

**Date of next meeting** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber