

9th January 2013

At a meeting of the Tourism Committee of Sandwich Town Council held this day
present: -

The Mayor (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs Laslett
“ Mrs Liote
“ Scollard
“ Scott
Mr Steve Laslett

Councillors Mrs Chandler and Mrs Russell, Nick Delaney and Emma-Jane Allen from DDC were also in attendance.

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Carter and Graeme.

Councillor Moorhouse entered the meeting at this point of the proceedings.

2. Councillors Mrs Chandler and Mrs Russell, Nick Delaney and Emma-Jane Allen from DDC gave an in depth briefing on a preliminary idea to create an open space in Sandwich as part of a project which is hoped to be funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The idea is to look at bringing areas together as an open strategic park which incorporates Biodiversity, Heritage and Community Engagement. The committee discussed the area and it was agreed that DDC should be looking at incorporating the Town Walls (Millwall, The Ropewalk, and the Butts), all play areas, Gazen Salts Nature Reserve, the Butts Playing Fields, Quay Green, Cow Leas Meadow and the Donkey Paddock - all the green areas around the town with the exception of Monks Wall Reserve. At this stage DDC are asking for STC to support the concept and work with officers at DDC to help identify the correct areas to be discussed. At present this is just preliminary discussion and STC will need to wait until the consultation comes out in March 2013 to make formal representations. The Tourism Committee therefore RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that Sandwich Town Council fully supports the idea.

3. The minutes from the meeting held on 5th December 2012 were revisited and the following updates were provided: -

- The missing signpost from Seven Post Alley-Sandwich Town Council has resolved that funding will be provided to KCC's Public Rights of Way team to re-instate the sign in plastic. KCC have been given this information.
- Atlas UK have provided the Town Clerk's Office with a map that changes can be made to if the committee so wished. It was agreed that this item will be placed on the next tourism committee agenda.
- The Environment Agency and Halcrow were contacted as to when the Tidal Defence Work will commence and finish. This information was forwarded onto the committee by email.

- The public convenience attendants have provided the office with a list of 80 coach companies that have stopped at the Quay in 2012. The office is currently gathering the contact details for each of these companies. As well as making contact by email and asking if Sandwich can do anything to help, it was agreed that the coach companies be given information on things of interest in Sandwich and itinerary ideas. Guildhall tours should be made available when possible. The companies to be asked if they would willing to have reciprocal links from their websites.
 - The Visit Kent website has been updated with the correct contact details.
 - The Mayor stated that the matter regarding a trophy for the ‘Sandwich Bites’ competition is still ongoing. Steve Laslett stated that he had made contact with Israeli TV earlier on in the day and had received positive feedback. It is hoped that they will be filming in April time which will then be screened in Israel. It is hoped that it will attract British TV too. Steve to update the committee when he hears anymore. It was also agreed that Steve makes Israeli TV aware of the Kitcheners Camp.
4. The notes from the ‘Heritage & Tourism in Sandwich-A Vision and a Strategy’ open meeting were revisited. It was agreed that a lot had been achieved in the past 12 months but it was felt that a further open meeting was not required at present. The Retail Offer was discussed in the context of Cattle Market site in the Land Allocations Document. It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that Sandwich Town Council strongly recommends refusal to the Cattle Market site proposals to allow time for the district council to liaise with the town council to work out a place shaping for the site.
 5. The discussion regarding the pedestrianisation of the town was revisited. The Town Team are undertaking this and will be consulting with the retail sector. It is looking at a permanent solution to pedestrainise Market Street and King Street, rather than a temporary solution. It is to also allow access to cyclists and mobility scooters. It was agreed that the Tourism Committee fully supports pursuing permanent pedestrianisation in the town and RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that STC support pedestrianisation of Market Street and King Street and that the Town Team undertake a consultation of the retail sector
 6. The discussion regarding promotion of the ‘Sandwich Bites’ competition was revisited. The vision is to create a two day celebration of the Sandwich on 11th and 12th May. It is hoped there will be a two day food fayre on the Guildhall Forecourt. The ‘Sandwich Bites’ competition and stalls in Market Street and a fun fare on The Quay.
 7. Mr Steve Laslett gave brief feedback from the White Cliffs Country Tourism Association (WCCTA) meeting, held on 11th December 2012. He stated that he had attended the meeting with Matt Collins from the Bell Hotel. There is £4,800 grant money available to groups and organisations to bid for projects. He thought that the Tourism Committee could put an application in for a grant towards the Waterfront Trail. He also stated that if the new tourism guide was printed and ready for distribution by the beginning of March, WCCTA would be willing to distribute them on our behalf. It was therefore agreed that an application for funding towards the Waterfront Trail would be made. It was also agreed to ensure

that the guide was ready for distribution by the beginning of March.

8. Mr Steve Laslett gave an update on the Medieval Heritage projects. There is currently no progress on the Medieval Living Museum project however a property may have been identified.
The project for the Medieval Boat Yard is progressing well. A briefing paper has gone to Nadeem Aziz at DDC and a meeting will be arranged with officers at DDC in the coming weeks.
9. Mr Steve Laslett gave an update on 'The Sandwich Shop'. Mr Laslett is continuing to liaise with the Trustees of the old Police Office. He has been speaking to shopkeepers who are keen for this project to go ahead and would be willing to put money towards the project.
10. The idea of finding/making promotional videos of Sandwich was discussed. The idea of videoing places of interest i.e. St. Mary's Arts Centre, then placing YouTube links from the Sandwich Events website was considered a good idea. It was agreed that Steve speaks to Bob Martin to see if he knows of anyone that would do the filming as long as a briefing was given.
The Town Clerk to find details of a company that has done a similar thing at the Guildhall and St. Peter's Church.