

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Llandudno Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Llandudno Town Council – Community Services & Tourism Committee

Held on Tuesday 13th September at 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lloyd Street, Llandudno

Those Present:

Cllr Billy Evans - Chairman

Cllr Mrs M Wigzell – Vice Chairman

Cllr Miss C Marubbi, The Mayor

Cllr Mrs D Good

Cllr Mrs J Audus-Williams

Cllr D J Hawkins

Cllr B B Bertola

Cllr Ms P Hebron

Cllr F Bradfield

Cllr Mrs J Jones

Cllr M Bullock, JP

Cllr Mrs M Lyon

Cllr Gl Davies

Cllr Miss A O’Grady

Cllr T R Davies

Cllr T Dewar

In attendance:

Mr D Bennett, Llandudno Chamber of Trade

Mrs E Burrows, Llandudno Chamber of Trade

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr G Burchett

Cllr J E Ridler

Cllr Mrs P Burchett

Cllr G O Robbins

Cllr F Davies

Cllr G O Roberts

Cllr G Davies

Cllr D Sutcliffe

Cllr M A Pearce

Cllr Mrs A M Yates

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT

There were none

17. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held on Tuesday 31st May 2016, were received.

19. HEALTHY HIGH STREETS REGENERATION PROGRAMME:

(as resolved by Council 29.07.2016)

19.1 A presentation was received from Llandudno Chamber of Trade on the Healthy High Streets Regeneration Programme. Mr Bennett outlined the background to the programme,

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which had been launched by the UK Government in response to a review by Mary Portas “Queen of Shops” of UK High Streets. The review found that there had been a downturn in traditional high street shopping due to the economic recession, a move to out of town shopping areas, and online retail. The Healthy High Streets programme was designed to help combat this by providing intensive support to 100 high streets over a three-year period, delivered through Business in the Community and supported by corporate partners, Boots, Marks & Spencer, Santander, EE, Greggs, and Exterior Media. Llandudno had been accepted onto the programme for the final year.

It was outlined that the programme had three main aims; to increase footfall by 10%, reduce vacant retail properties, and create/boost employment and assist a return to a sense of civic pride to the town centre. Representatives from Business in the Community had recently visited Llandudno and commented on the high retail occupancy rates and the civic pride evident within the town but considered that the town could still benefit from the programme. Three key challenges facing Llandudno were identified as follows:

- 1) The location of many different groups and interests within the town including hoteliers, retailers, visitors, residents, Llandudno Town Council and Conwy County Borough Council. This could be a strength in terms of the skills available to draw on but could also lead to a disunited approach. The seasonal nature of Llandudno and the diversity of Llandudno’s catchment area, containing both deprived and affluent wards, had also been identified as additional factors.
- 2) The move to out of town shopping areas and a rise in internet sales has put significant pressure on Llandudno’s high street. The unpredictable economic climate in terms of the financial crisis and the uncertainties surrounding Brexit has added to the pressures. The latter, however, could present opportunities as well as challenges if more people chose to holiday in the UK.
- 3) The success of Parc Llandudno has led to the fragmentation of the high street due to it being set slightly apart from the main street and the availability of free parking on site. The need for a link between Parc Llandudno and Mostyn Street was highlighted. It was hoped that the Tudno Castle Hotel, once restored, could provide that link.

Mr Bennett explained how the programme could help address some of the above challenges and what could be expected from the corporate partners involved. Key was that the programme provided an opportunity to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues affecting Llandudno and take a joint approach. This could include the adjustment of store closing times so that they remained open in the evening during key events, the introduction of pop up shops in vacant retail units, or additional parking information. Boots, Marks & Spencer, Santander, Debenhams, as key corporate partners could also provide statistics on footfall etc., information on funding such as business start-up loans and on progress in other pilot towns, as well as mentoring support. Mostyn Estates Ltd were also a key partner.

Members raised that the dynamic of Mostyn Champneys Retail Park was changing with stores receiving planning permission to increase their floor space through mezzanine floors, and a move away from the sale of white goods. This had affected the high street along with the dilution of independent stores to those that could be found on any high street. Members considered that it was essential to encourage small independent businesses within the town and market the high street as offering something different to the retail parks. They were also in favour of business mentoring and thought that pop up shops could work, provided they did not impact on existing small businesses.

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It was further raised that the establishment of new businesses at Parc Llandudno and Mostyn Champneys indicated that there was business confidence in Llandudno, which would have a positive knock on effect on the town centre. The issue of high business rates within the town and high rental rates for retail units in the Victoria Centre were also discussed. It was noted that Mostyn Estates Ltd had offered concessions to encourage businesses into the town centre. They were also looking at the possibility of sign posting in the Victoria Centre to other independent businesses and locating pop up shops in vacant units.

Mr Bennett informed members that the next meeting of the Healthy High Streets programme would be held on Tuesday 15th November 2016.

The Chairman and members thanked Mr Bennet and Mrs Burrows for their informative presentation and the work they had undertaken so far. They then left the meeting.

Council had been invited to appoint two representatives to attend future meetings of the Healthy High Street Programme. Three nominations were received and following a ballot in accordance with standing orders,

IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr Mrs M Lyon and Cllr Miss A O'Grady would attend meetings of the Healthy High Street Programme on behalf of the Town Council

Cllr B Bertola left the meeting.

20. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM THE FOLLOWING:

20.1 Town Centre Improvements Working Party. The Chairman reported on planned projects, including a bench with planter in Upper Mostyn Street, a bench on the traffic island in Gloddaeth Street, and a planter and hanging basket tree in North Western Gardens. The benches would be made of Welsh oak and the work would be undertaken by the contractor previously employed to refurbish benches in Mostyn Street. The worn grass area around the Rabbit statue at North Western Gardens would also be improved. A site visit to West Shore was planned to look at locations to install four cycle racks and quotations were being sought for the restoration of the historical plaques erected on number of buildings within the Town Centre.

21. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COMMUNITY SERVICES SUB COMMITTEES

- 21.1 Miss Alice Sub Committee, held 27th June 2016.
- 21.2 Llandudno in Bloom Sub Committee, held 20th July 2016.
- 21.3 Decorative Lighting Sub Committee, held 26th July 2016.

The Chairman of the Llandudno in Bloom Sub Committee reported that the results of the Royal Horticultural Society's Wales in Bloom competition would be announced at an awards ceremony to be held in Prestatyn on Friday 16th September 2016, and that the results of the Britain in Bloom competition would be announced at an awards ceremony in Birmingham on Friday 14th October 2016.

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IT WAS RESOLVED *that the recommendations of the Alice Sub Committee, held 27th June 2016, Llandudno in Bloom Sub Committee, held 20th July 2016, and Decorative Lighting Sub Committee, held 26th July 2016, be approved and accepted.*

22. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

22.1 A report *was received* from the Town Council's representative on meetings of the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils. It was noted that the proposed mergers of County Borough Councils in Wales would be put on hold for 10 years and that following Local Government Elections in 2017, the date of the next Local Government Elections would be brought forward from the 2023 proposed date to 2022. The Welsh Government would also progress proposals to reduce the number of Town and Community Councils from 700 to 100.

22.2 Conwy Fair Trade Coalition: It was reported that Conwy Fair Trade Coalition had received a certificate officially recognising the group as a senior Fairtrade organisation in Wales and arrangements would be made for the certificate to be presented to the Town Council. They had also come first in the Big Fairtrade Breakfast awards in Wales.

22.3 To receive any further reports from outside bodies: there were none.

23. TO CONSIDER ANY CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

23.1 A request from Venue Cymru to give a presentation updating on the work carried out by Venue Cymru, including upcoming performances, *was approved*.

23.2 Letter from the Post Office regarding the move of the Crown Post Office branch at 14 Vaughan Street, Llandudno, to the WH Smith store, Mostyn Street *was received*.

23.3 Email from Conwy CBC regarding the refurbishment of Craig y Don Paddling Pool and Combermere Gardens Public Conveniences *was received*. A member raised that temporary conveniences installed whilst refurbishment work was taking place, whilst welcomed, seemed inadequate for the number of people using the facilities and that the tank required emptying more frequently and **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to bring this to the attention of Conwy CBC.*

23.4 Copy letter from a member of the public regarding jet skis in North Shore bay *was received*

23.5 Notification from Conwy CBC of the publication of Cerdded Conwy Walks Autumn Walk Programme *was received*.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 15th November 2016**.