

Town Centre Regeneration Meeting

Tuesday 28th January 2014

In Attendance

Sarah Scourfield – Pembroke Dock Town Council,
Sinead Henehan – Pembrokeshire County Council
Martin White – Pembrokeshire County Council
Stephanie Cross – Pembroke Dock Regeneration Team

Apologies

Lee Griffiths – Pembroke Dock Regeneration Team

Sinead informed members of the regeneration team how other towns are running with the regeneration projects, she commented that in some towns the chamber of trade were taking the lead roles with Fishguard and Haverfordwest being the lead towns in Pembrokeshire.

It was suggested that public meetings can be positive in some occasions as it can bring fresh ideas to the group in order for the group to action.

It was commented that the Sunderland Trust were keen to be more involved, sarah stated that the group were not aware of this and she would contact them to invite them to the next meeting.

Sarah commented that one of the main issues the group tends to come across is funding for projects, Sinead stated that a lot of projects will not need money but manpower could be used for match funding instead. Martin stated that in most towns the Town councils have provided funding from their precept.

Martin commented that the group should contact the Martello Quay agent Keith Williams to see if they would be willing to help with funds and also keep the Milford Haven Port Authority involved by inviting them to a number of meetings.

Martin informed the group that the proposed Aldi project on London Road, is currently on hold as the company are in talks with Silcox to buy more land to suffice the parking need for the store.

The commodore hotel in the Dockyard has been brought by a Nigerian company and they are currently awaiting plans.

Asda had been approached to move into the Martello Quay development, but it was stated that as they were overtrading there was no real incentive for them to move.

Valero refinery is diversifying into renewable energy in summer 2014.

Martin stated that the THI grants scheme had come to an end for Pembroke Dock and the officers would be moving over to Haverfordwest, he stated that there would however be investments in the Ports in Pembrokeshire in the future.

SS to contact
Sunderland Trust

<p>Sinead commented that the action plan produced was a good working document and should always be changing to ensure that projects keep moving forward.</p> <p>Markets – It was commented that this was something which needed real commitment from the group to be a success, but it was not confirmed that this commitment could be given. Sinead suggested that maybe the group hold markets at certain times of the year as this would not need so much of a commitment from the group.</p> <p>Hanging Baskets – Sarah stated that the Town Council have already discussed the option of expanding the existing hanging basket display in the town to cover London Road and Maypole corner to make the town look more welcoming. Martin questioned if the chamber of trade would be willing to make a contribution in some way to this, Stephanie stated that the traders already struggle on a day to day basis so would be unlikely that they could do this. Sinead questioned if Richard Brown had been contacted, Sarah stated that she had not done this but would do by the end of the week. It was highlighted that Councillor representation on the regeneration group was not as good as it should be, Sarah confirmed that she would bring this issue to the notice of council to try and get more councillors to attend.</p> <p>Signage – Sarah stated that the plans had been received from Ben Blake with regards to the signage in the town, and required confirmation from the group about finger post signage. Stephanie commented that a number of members of the group felt that the finger posts would not be required at this stage and the road signage at the ferry port was more important. Sinead confirmed that all the gateway signage in the area was due to be changed in the next 12 months.</p> <p>Soap Box Derby – Sinead stated that this event was a good idea but due to the health and safety implications it was an event which needed careful consideration from the County Council, Sarah commented that from a meeting with Marc Owen at County Council the group are due to attend a Safety Forum meeting to present the event to the group. Stephanie commented that the event has been held previously in Pembroke Dock with no issues, Sinead stated that due to a change in health and safety the County Council had to be sure the event was safe. Martin White stated that there are a lot of businesses in Waterloo Industrial Estate who may want to be involved in the planning of this event and it would give the group the expertise they may need.</p> <p>Problem Areas – St Govans Centre was an issue which was raised, Stephanie questioned if the planning department could do anything about the visual impact the centre has on the town, and questioned if a letter could be sent to the owner. It was stated that the planning department could not do much as it is not a dangerous property or a property which attracts vermin. Stephanie stated that the roof of the building is not safe and there are rats in the area, it was agreed that the Chamber of Trade should send a letter outlining the issues with this property.</p> <p>Sinead questioned how often a meeting should take place between the group and County Council, it was agreed that 3 monthly meetings would be sufficient.</p>	<p>SS – to contact Richard Brown regarding hanging baskets.</p> <p>SS- to highlight council attendance at meetings</p> <p>SC – to put together a letter highlighting the issues surrounding the St Govans Centre.</p>
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