

## **Minutes of the Town Projects Committee meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7pm in the Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea.**

Present: Cllr Young (Chairman), Cllr Burridge-Clayton, Cllr Cox, Cllr Parkes, Cllr Mrs Ripley, Cllr Tolley,  
Mrs D Emery – Town Clerk, Mrs L Williams – Deputy Town Clerk, Beverley Milner Simonds – Town Centre Manager (TCM)

Cllr Young presented certificates and prizes to the winners of the Christmas Lighting Competition

### Public speaking Time

Members NOTED the comments from

- Mr Collings –spoke as a member of the Bridgwater Harley Davidson Owners Club
  - This would be their first rally of the year of about 600 -700 bikes if the weather is good
  - In previous years have parked up in Weston Super Mare
  - Will drive through the High St
  - Preferred park up would be between Reed Arms & The Pavilion
  - Have 25 years of experience in organising these rallies
  - Anticipated to bring approx. 1,000 people into the town
  - Would like to turn it into an annual event for the town
  - Harley Davidson may supply banners and advertising in the future

Members thought it would be good to receive an event like this for the town but were very concerned at the use of the suggested area of the seafront for the park-up. There was general consensus that it would be far better for businesses and safer to have the road closure on the South Esplanade beginning after the BARB building – it would also enable the event to grow as the grassed areas could be used. The TCM reminded members that this area was outside her remit and therefore couldn't help with road closures etc but would work with the group to advertise the event

Members would discuss road closures under 3.4 on the agenda

- Miss Parkin – spoke representing her business and those businesses affected by the suggested road closure for the Esplanade.
  - There was unanimous disagreement from business on the suggested esplanade road closure
  - It will prevent coaches from entering Burnham on that day
  - It will affect public transport – it is one of the main road arteries for the town
  - Members of some of the businesses affected were present at this meeting
  - A better position for the park-up would be to use the short-stay car park or a road closure on the south esplanade after Quantock Court
- Mrs Sarah Milner Simonds – spoke as an organiser of Burnham Foodfest
  - A review of the Foodfest that had taken place in the Town last year was given

- Members were thanked for the Town Council's financial support that enabled them to hold cookery demonstrations, run workshops, train volunteers, monitor visitor numbers and their location
- Visitor numbers were 16,000 – 19,000 over the 2 days
- Received a highly commended from the Prince of Wales at the Bath & West Show 2015 and nominated for a Rural Oscar Countryside Alliance for Tourism

1/16/TPC Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies: Cllr Ms Lawson (work)

There were no declarations of interest

2/16/TPC Tesco 106 Project

Members considered the report the report on the use of Traffic Management Signs

Cllr Burridge-Clayton PROPOSED, seconded by Cllr Cox and all AGREED that the **RECOMMENDATION to council** was not to continue using these Blue Signs

3.1 Members considered the report on Flag Poles and Bunting. The bunting is kept up from Spring until Autumn but is not all the way through the High St because Highways have stated there must be a 6 metre clearance, although in many other areas the requirement is only 5 metres. Members would like to see more use of Bunting

**ACTION** Cllr Burridge-Clayton as County Councillor will talk to highways to see if the height can be reduced to 5 metres

Members would like to see the flags remain up for longer periods but still to support occasion days and the flags be changed i.e. Cross of St. George flag displayed for 1 week.

**ACTION** The TCM was asked to get prices for more substantial flags and to go ahead with her suggestion and involve local schools in designing flags that could be used throughout the summer

3.2 Frostival events – members considered the proposal and AGREED that

- the Frostival was repeated in 2016
- the entertainment was focused on the Saturdays with a 60/40 ratio of spend for Saturdays versus Sunday
- Sunday entertainment should be on the High St. and Victoria St. and that shops are encouraged open on the Sundays through December especially in Victoria St.
- A destination event to be scheduled in again at the start of the festival period – like the Polar Bear, members would like to see the Princess Theatre used if possible
- Continue to work with local groups who want to put events on in the town centre
- That the lanterns were not collected in and that the scheme was revived for 2016 with an additional 100 lanterns
- Continue to promote participation in the lights competition
- The leaflet guide to be repeated in 2016

3.3 Members were informed that the Pancake Race event had been cancelled due to a lack of guidance of an alternative site to hold the event. The TCM

had received numerous objections from businesses and had asked the committee for other suggestions. There was not enough time for a new road closure application to go through the necessary procedure.

There was considerable debate around future road closures for events in the town, including using the Events Area in the High St. Cllr Cox suggested the lower part of the High St. between Lloyds bank and the Old Job Centre site, an area of the High St. that had not been tried before.

Cllr BurrIDGE Clayton suggested that every event should be looked at on its own merit. All councillors AGREED with this.

Members all AGREED that the Harley Davidson road closure should be moved to the South Esplanade past BARB.

**ACTION** Cllr BurrIDGE-Clayton as a Town Council representative on B.E.S.T had been in communication with Jeff Bunting (SDC) regarding the road closure forms. Once a 'Standard' pack of documents for road closure applications had been agreed, Cllr BurrIDGE-Clayton will forward to the TCM to distribute for events requiring road closures in the future. This would also allow the TCM to be in the loop for any support she may be able to offer. Overall this would lead to consistency and a higher standard of detailed information that is required.

3.5 Members AGREED that the invoices for the roadworks on the High St. could be paid. The Clerk gave a verbal update on the financial expenditure. The Clerk suggested that £20K was put into budget for the highway maintenance of the Event Area. Members all AGREED.

3.4 Members AGREED the visual improvements suggested

- 'spring clean' of the buildings – TCM will liaise with the shop keepers
- The BT owned cash point – the clerk had chased many times as there is a real Health & Safety risk, especially to young children but the owners are very reluctant to doing anything
- Large banners to go up in several locations including the Tuckers Site
- Technical St. is still an on-going problem, includes domestic appliances being dumped in road. Tarmac is in a dreadful state

**ACTION** Cllr BurrIDGE-Clayton as a County and District Councillor will lobby Somerset Waste and SDC enforcement licensing

3/16/TPC Members considered the email from the Chamber of Trade on the current situation regarding Town Centre management – Economic Development and the working relationship between the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade.

**ACTION** Cllr BurrIDGE-Clayton volunteered to go to the Chambers meetings on behalf of the council. It was also suggested that a nominated representative from the Chamber would be included in the agenda distribution with Councillors and should they then have anything to comment on they could ask to speak at the meeting. This would improve liaison with the Chamber while not requiring a change of policy at the TC. Members all AGREED.

4/16/TPC Members considered the request from the Railway Heritage Group to re-name a small section of Marine Drive, Station Approach/Drive/Road. The Chairman invited Mrs Popham to the table to update members on this on-going project.

- The Burnham on Sea sign is up

- The signal post would take a little longer as it is to be installed on 'no-mans' land, therefore a public notice has to be put in local newspaper
- The group can receive £1200 from SDC if they can match fund

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Burrridge-Clayton SEONDED by Cllr Tolley and all AGREED that the **RECOMMENDATION to council was** to support the Railway Heritage Group to have the small section of road between Burnham Holiday Village and Pier St traffic lights, renamed 'Station Approach'

- 5/16/TPC Members considered the pedestrianisation of the High St. It included allowing vehicle access for deliveries.  
The Chamber of Trade were not in favour at all. A consultation questionnaire would need to go out to every trader. There are areas of Weston that have the mixed use and it appears to work.  
The Clerk reminded members that there would be a huge financial implication as the whole area would need to be brought up to the same level i.e. the road surface would be the same as the pavements. Where would the funding come from?
- ACTION** The Clerk was asked to write to County Highways to see if they would consider any type of pedestrianisation.
- 6/16/TPC Commemoration of the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 Members all AGREED that they would like to consider this at the next Town Projects meeting. It would give them time to think of suggestions.  
The birthday celebrations are scheduled for May 12-15<sup>th</sup> - although it may be best to avoid making any arrangements on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May as there was to be a huge televised event from Windsor
- 7/16/TPC Date of next meeting  
Members NOTED the date of the next meeting of the Committee would be Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:40 hrs