

Bude Partnership

Theme Groups: Town Centre



Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 7th November 2007.

Present: David Chadwick (NCDC), Nicky Chopak, Peter Le Broy and Ali Rowe: facilitator.

Agenda:

- 1 What (if anything needs changing in preparation for the second public consultation event on 10th Nov?
- 2 What can be pulled out from the comments so far, and what research can we be carrying out now?
- 3 How and when will this group meet next?

1 Further Consultation Event(s)

The comments etc on the subject of Town Centre had been circulated before the meeting. It was agreed that people should be given an indication of what had been said at the last consultation event to see (a) if they agreed, (b) how these should be prioritized and (c) if they have other comments and ideas. (Action: Ali)

It was also suggested that there should be a separate survey of businesses but Nicky reminded those present that this had been undertaken by the Chamber in 2004. The results of this survey were passed to Ali for analysis with the other data.

Funding

David Chadwick reported that there is a 'Grants Team' in NCDC who can search for funding available for different projects. This was noted for future reference.

- 2 **Comments so far** (To be read in conjunction with the précis of comments previously circulated.)

Toilets

It was agreed that since the only toilets are now on the two beaches and at the crescent, new toilets are required. It is understood that when the Foyer is built adjacent to the Post Office, new public toilets will be included. If further car parking is provided, toilets should be included in that plan too

Pedestrianisation

There is clearly a call for Pedestrianisation of Queen Street (and suggested call for Belle Vue Lane etc as well). Discussion took place around how Bude lends itself to this idea as it already has a gyratory traffic system.

Additional car parking is seen as crucial.

It was suggested that for the six or eight weeks in the summer there should be a 'land train' or free bus going around the town, from the beach car parks and through the centre, this would ease the need for additional parking in the town. A horse drawn vehicle could be a tourist attraction.

Cleanliness:

There was discussion around the assertion that Bude was 'scruffy' general agreement being that the council clear up regularly and well. Ali showed the photographs that had been submitted. It was agreed that there must be a problem where rights of way cross private land. Ali reported that the Youth Theme Group were arranging for a working party of young people to clean up the offending passageway behind Wroes. This was welcomed.

Speed Bumps

It was agreed that the speed bumps do damage cars but Nicky reported that those in Belle Vue are to be changed (Highways Department). She also reported that there had been consideration of turning parking in Burns View to 45degree. The steps up to some shops in Queen Street were also highlighted and again this would be a question for Highways. It was agreed that Steve Ewing (Highways) should be invited to become involved in Bude Partnership. (Action: Ali)

Wi-Fi

Ali reported that she had done some research which suggested that this can be done at some expense if it is to be provided free to users but if it is 'pay-as-you-go' then it is possible it might be installed free. It was agreed that Ali should do further research on this. She should for example contact 'Act Now'. (Action: Ali)

Retail Park

It was noted that all people who commented on this were opposed to the possibility of a new retail park.

Nanny Moore's Bridge

There had been a request for a 'dummy' third arch on this bridge, but it was noted that this space was where the water wheel had been previously.

Facilities

It was noted that people had called for a covered area, and wet weather facilities.

Allotments

There had been various calls for allotments and this was discussed. David Chadwick reported that an organisation called 'Community Gardens' may have funding for such a venture

Bude Light

It was reported that the light has recently been over-hauled and re-varnished. The lights have been re-newed, they are subject to vandalism.

Planting

Some planting is undertaken by the Town Council – notably the hanging baskets which received positive feedback from the public. Some is NCDC and it seems to be this that people are criticizing. Ali to contact NCDC (Highways) about this. (Action: Ali)

Strand Hotel

It was noted that there is an over-whelming call for the redevelopment of the strand Hotel, this causes a problem as this is privately owned. It was agreed that Ali should seek to find out who currently owns it and ask what their plans are It was agreed that if the whole site included the Travis Perkins yard, there would be room for a major development –e.g affordable housing units with green space.

Signage/Information Sign

There had been a call for an information board on the triangle, and generally more information signs all over Bude showing the way to the museum, the beaches, the castle, the canal etc. David agreed to investigate whether funding might be available from the NCDC Community Chest .

(Action: David)

There was also a request for signs to be in the Cornish language, but some doubt was expressed about whether there is a history of Cornish language in Bude. Bude had once been in Devon, and many people look to Devon for services such as hospitals and colleges, since Truro is very distant and difficult to get to.

Cinema / Theatre

It was agreed that Bude needs a cinema/theatre. Ali referred to the idea that had been submitted that tiered seating (demountable) in the Ivor Potter Hall, would allow a cinema club etc. Brief discussion took place around the old cinema building which appears to be empty but is privately owned.

Rural Area/Paris Plans etc T

It was noted that discussions (including those at the Town Council) often revolve around Bude town. Stratton is sometimes neglected and now has almost no retail shops. It was agreed that Stratton, Poughill and the rural hinterland must not be forgotten. David reported on a joint application by Torridge and NCDC to the Rural Development Programme. David will find out more about this. (Action: David)

3 Future Meetings:

It was agreed that Ali should send copies of the minutes to all those on the Town Centre Theme Group who had not managed to attend today, for their comments and information. All members will communicate with each other on their actions etc between now and the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Theme Group was fixed for 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 13th December, provided everyone can make that date and it is agreed that a meeting is needed.

4 Any Other Business

Publicity

It Bryan D-S arrived for the next meeting and brought a copy of the Bude Stratton Post. The report on the Public Consultation event had received prominent placing. Ali was congratulated on the article and the photograph of Alice which was also published.