

Holmes Chapel Partnership Meeting

Held on Wednesday 22nd February 2011 at 7.00 p.m.
at the Victoria Club, Holmes Chapel

Present: Jacqui Barton (JB), Glyn Chambers (GC), Stuart Gammon (SG),
Phil Hargreaves (PH), Heather Jones (HJ), Steve Ranger (SR),
Hazel Sutcliffe (HS).

In Attendance (part): Christine Bates

Apologies: Alison Dale (AD), Jess Cragg (JC) Les Gilbert (LG),

1. Previous Minutes/Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th January 2011 were approved. GC reported that there would be no problem with the Entertainment Licence for the proposed Battle of the Bands.

2. Presentation by Christine Bates (Chair of Alsager Partnership)

Christine began her presentation with some background information as to how the Partnership was formed in that 4 towns (Sandbach, Alsager, Congleton and Middlewich) were asked by Cheshire East Council to work on the future sustainability of their towns they started by holding 4, 3 hour workshops inviting 20 people representing all age groups with their first event being the Christmas light switch on. This event has grown year by year with approximately 7,000 people attending in 2011.

Christine reported that the stalls are hired from Sandbach (the market stalls) and that there was no charge for them last year. They currently charge £25 per stall for a business and £20 for a charity this charges includes lighting. Alsager Partnership have 1 person responsible for businesses, 1 person for the charities and 1 for the road closure. The Rotary are responsible for the stage/lighting. They have fireworks, the schools are included, there is a workshop (last year making lanterns for the procession) and the 6th for are responsible for entertaining younger children. There is also a Santa's Grotto in the local hardware shop. She advised the Group not to give up as far as the proposed road closure was concerned as Alsager too faced difficulties in the beginning and suggested that a letter is sent out to CEC in August to allow us plenty of time. It was agreed that the event should be held on a Sunday (less resistance to a road closure). She also suggested we have a meeting with the traders in July.

We should contact Alsager Partnership to ascertain the date of their Christmas Fayre this year so that there is no conflict and also enabling the availability of the stalls.

CB also said that advertising is key, posters, newspaper articles, local radio etc.

Christine offered to photocopy forms that they send out to the businesses and send them to SG .

The Alsager timetable runs as follows:

Stalls are delivered early in the morning and are set up by lunchtime, the stallholders arrive at 2.00 and unpack as the roads need to be clear by 3.00 (road closes from 3.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.). The event opens at 4.00 p.m., ceremony conducted by Fiona Bruce, at 5.00 p.m. there is procession (children and lanterns). There is a church choir, can't sing choir and dancers on stage, Father Christmas turns on the lights with a child (who has won the honour in a raffle) and fireworks are set off

to co-ordinate with the lights switch on. There is a best stall competition with prize money of £25 (1st), £20 (2nd) and £10 (3rd).

The stallholders are responsible for clearing their stalls and the Council will collect them once vacated.

CB offered John Paulson (Treasurer of Alsager Partnership) to come to talk to the Business Forum.

It was thought that an invitation be issued to someone from CEC to talk to us about road closures and that we need to find the policy that says that an "A" road can't be closed.

We need to inform Rotary that we are seeking a road closure but that it would need to be a Sunday to achieve any success – SG will be speaking to Rotary in March and will mention it then.

SR to speak to David Cowgill (Parish Clerk) to ask him to write to the relevant department at CEC to ascertain the first steps for a general road closure on a Sunday.

Action: SG to speak to Rotary to advise them we are seeking road closure on a Sunday

SR to speak to David Savage to ask him to write to CEC for general advice on road closure

3. Correspondence

SG had received a letter from AD in respect of the booking of the pitch and tables for the Village Fair.

4. Funding Update

Action for market towns – JB had downloaded the relevant information and as part of the criteria was that there had to have been significant developments or improvements in particular project over the last 12 months, it was agreed to defer this until next year.

4. Project Updates

Cycling Village – JC had reported that the signage for the shelter was too big a task for HCCS to undertake. GC has spoken to Nigel Player to ask if he is interested in taking this forward but has not had a response, GC to chase. It was agreed that the logos (12" across) would be placed on the side panels of the shelter and that a sign be printed for the top of the shelter:- "This cycle shelter was provided by Holmes Chapel Partnership supported by Holmes Chapel Parish Council and donated to the community".

HS reported that she had received an e-mail via David Cowgill from Cheryl Smith (PCSO) regarding a smart water cycle marking initiative to be held on the 17th March in the precinct from 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. (appointments required). It was agreed that HS contact Cheryl Smith to see if any posters are available for display in the library and possibly our Notice Board.

HS reported that she had again contacted Holly Hill at Middlewich Road Primary School and the Governors had decided that due safety issues, they could not encourage youngsters to cycle to school and because of this, they will not be providing cycle racks. However, HS proposes to create a new map with safe cycle routes (that children could use with parents) and once this is complete she could go into school again to talk to children, parents and staff.

HS has e-mailed HCCS but, as yet, has not received a reply.

Action: GC to speak to Nigel Player

HS to contact the PCSO in respect of cycle marking event

Play Area – GC reported that he has been trying to set up a Project Board for the Play Area. As a meeting had been arranged for 23rd February with Nick Guthrie and hopefully this meeting will enable the Project Board to be set up.

Dane Valley – The second Programme Meeting had been held on the 21st February, there are 3 projects, there is an exhibition to be held in the library in April with an enthusiastic environmentalist present and that there is an English Nature Grant available.

HJ reported that four of her U3A members (3 of these are walking group leaders) had shown an interest in producing a map and possibly a Jubilee Map (a £500 grant was available for this) with 6 walks of varying lengths marked on it. HS to liaise with HJ regarding maps (both hard and electronic copies) as HS already has some in her possession in connection with the Cycling Project.

PH to contact a photographer to take photos of the Dane Valley for the exhibition in April.

Action: HS to liaise with HJ in respect of maps

PH to contact photographer

Love Local Life – As AD was not present at the meeting, this item will be held over.

5. 2012 Events and Projects

Music Event – JC not present at meeting – this item to be held over until next meeting.

Village Fair – SG reported that a triple pitch in a prominent position had been booked for the Village Fair to be held on the 6th May at a cost of £59 (6 tables). This is to be a combined project with the PC and SR would speak to the PC on the 23rd February to ask for help from them in this respect.

HS to speak to Dave Monks to ask if his large gazebo would be available for us to use. SG has organised display boards from Dot Flint.

Diamond Jubilee – SG/GC reported on a meeting they had attended. There were 2 events to be focussed on, these being the Commemorative Service to be held at the Leisure Centre on Sunday 3rd June followed by “the big lunch” which everyone would be invited to attend (bringing their own lunch). It was reported that the Victoria Club would be holding a cricket event on Monday 4th and HJ reported that she hoped a display of memories from 60 years ago to include photographs and art could take place. There may be a concert/dance on the Saturday evening.

A follow up meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 29th February to which PH (and possibly GC) could attend on behalf of the Partnership to find out if Partnership help is required in this respect.

It was agreed that if a Battle of the Bands event was not able to be held before Easter, then this could possibly be held on the Diamond Jubilee weekend – SG to e-mail JC in this respect.

Action: SR to speak to PC in respect of display/help regarding Village Fair

HS to speak to Dave Monks regarding gazebo

PH to attend Diamond Jubilee follow up meeting on 29th Feb

SG to contact JC in connection with Battle of the Bands

6. Communications

SG reported that he had spoken to Nigel Player of The Village Magazine and they had agreed that we could use the magazine as and when we had something to publicise.

Partnership Presentation – PH had circulated this by e-mail.

SG to e-mail PH with Wendy MacDonald's contact details to find out the arrangements for the presentation on Tuesday 28th February. The remaining presentations are as follows:

JC	Guides – 5 th March
SG	Rotary – 14 th March
HS	WI – a date to be arranged

Post Meeting Note: PH had re-circulated and updated presentation on 29th February.

7. Any Other Business

None.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 28th March 2012 at 7.00 p.m. in the Committee Room at The Victoria Club.