

Holmes Chapel Partnership Meeting

Wednesday 19th December 2012 at 7.00pm at the Victoria Club, Holmes Chapel

1 Attendees

Present: Jacqui Barton, Harry Brooks, Glyn Chambers, Dorothy Davidson, Les Gilbert, Stuart Gammon, Phil Hargreaves, Heather Jones, Hazel Sutcliffe,

Apologies: Bethan Wiggett,

Absent: Steve Ranger, David Steer

2 Previous Minutes / Actions Arising

- The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 2012 were approved.
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3 Correspondence

1. Notification that the Partnership has been successful in securing funding of £50,000 from WREN for the Middlewich Road Play Area Project; this was about £20,000 less than had been applied for. Press release been issued.
 2. Notification that the Partnership has been successful in securing funding of £148,896 for the Dane Meadow Project from Natural England (P4C); this was the full amount requested. Press release been issued.
 3. Much positive feedback has been received about the Christmas market both in person and via email, Facebook, Twitter.
 4. Formal complaint made to St John's Ambulance about the service they provided at the Christmas Market. This has been acknowledged and the complaint is to be investigated. Meanwhile an invoice has been received but has not been paid.
 5. Stuart handed Phil the Public Liability certificate.
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4 Communications Strategy

- This item was dropped owing to the absence of Bethan and David
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5 Project & Funding Updates

5.1 Christmas Market

1. The venture was an overwhelming success with attendance far exceeding expectations. Traders were exceptionally pleased with the day's takings. Between them the various charities are believed to have raised over £1000.
2. Various suggestions were put forward by the committee and from feedback from the public for improvements for the 2013 event, including better PA, more lighting, 3 hours instead of 4, more and better pre-event advertising.

3. Phil presented the balance sheet showing that the account was in credit of about £700 which should be ring-fenced to provide a financial cushion for next year.
4. Equivalent Sunday (Dec 1st) to be put in diary for 2013

Action:

- Create a list of suggestions for next year's fair to be filed in readiness: ALL (send suggestions to Stuart to co-ordinate)

5.2 CEC Funding

1. An application for funding the five Local Area Partnerships (Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich, Sandbach) has been submitted to Cheshire East Council by Dot Flint (Chair, Partnerships Forum).
2. It is anticipated that this will remain at £8000 per Partnership.

5.3 Dane Meadow

1. The paperwork for the successful funding bid has not yet arrived but Stuart was given the authority to sign on behalf of the Partnership. John Clowes and Phil (Chairman and Treasurer on Dane Meadow Project Board) will be sent copies to check the terms and conditions.
2. Hazel reported on the progress of the environmental part of the project.
 - Development of seasonal planning underway: interested members of the community to be invited on last Sunday of every month 10-12 to participate in developing bird hide (clearing, digging and planting suitable shrubs), conduct surveys of trees, birds and plants.
 - Suggestion to organise a community picnic over the August Bank Holiday weekend to showcase progress and encourage more general community use.
3. Sharon Forsyth has withdrawn from the art element of the project owing to pressure of work. Vicky Groves has been approached as replacement.

5.4 Play Area

- After news of successful funding bid, meeting of Project Board needs to be convened asap to develop detailed planning.

Action:

- Stuart to consult Nich Guthrie on his availability to progress the project. It will be necessary to have 3 tenders to comply with PC rules.

5.5 Cycling Village

1. Harry is seeking funding to develop maps of the LAP area and the individual towns, including a map of leisure rides around Holmes Chapel. An application to Cheshire Community Funding (CCF) has been deferred to March but there is a possibility of gaining funds from CE Community Grant Funds, application by 28th December and Harry has requested £600 from the individual LAPs to complete the £11,000 needed for the project.
2. Partnership is willing to contribute but £600 beyond reasonable means especially as cycle shelter needs repairs which will cost this much. Suggestion to seek matched funding from Parish Council Community Grant.

3. Harry reported investigations into the legal status of footpaths connecting proposed cycle routes. He is working with CE to see if some can be re-designated for dual pedestrian and cycle use.
4. Andrew Rowland is developing cycling links with the Primary Schools.

Actions:

- Stuart to forward Harry's request for funding to PC.
- Further action on the cycling shelter and funding for maps to be added to agenda for next meeting.

6 Potential 2013 Projects

6.1 Blue Skies Thinking Group / Community Centre

1. Meeting convened for HC Comprehensive School to unveil their plans for a new Arts building, including two large drama studios for which it is seeking funding. This space would potentially be available for the community to hire outside school hours. The school is seeking the support of the community through the primary schools and associated organisations.
2. Stuart was invited to this meeting and reported back to the committee. There was some discussion as to the usefulness of such a project, given that existing facilities are underfunded and further premises for use as a Community Centre are under investigation by the Parish Council.

6.2 Partnership Initiative

1. Would be a good time to liaise with local businesses after commercial success experienced during and as a result of the Christmas Market.
2. Still no sign of a traders' association being formed. Glyn offered to remind David McGifford that he had promised earlier in the year to contact traders to help them promote their businesses.

Action:

- Glyn to contact David McGifford

6.3 Parish Plan Update

1. With the information from the 2011 Census just published might be appropriate to try and update the Parish Plan.
2. Les pointed out that there must be procedures for doing this which might save time and effort.

Action:

- Les to seek information regarding the process for updating Parish Plans

7 Any Other Business

1. Since the Planning Application by Persimmon Homes is likely to be unsuccessful in the short term, discussion was deferred.
2. Glyn requested that meetings in the first half of the year be brought forward to the third Wednesday in the month (apart from January). The committee agreed to do this subject to the availability of the room.

Action:

- Stuart to consult Brian Stubbs re dates using the Committee Room

8 Date of next Meeting

- Wednesday 16th January 2013 in the Committee Room at the Victoria Club, starting at 7.00 pm.