

BEVERLEY TOWN COUNCIL

BEVERLEY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (Working Group Meeting)

15th September 2015

Present: Councillors T Astell, Dodsworth and Willis (Chair), Peter Jacobson (ERYC), Rod Towse (ERYC), Joy Jack (Appeal Group) Julian Minshall (Chamber of Trade), Harry Burton (Beverley Lions) and Mr Tait (Flemingate Centre Manager)

In attendance: Carol Oliver, Deputy Town Clerk

11. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Prue Blake (Appeal Group) and Phil Scaife (Chamber of Trade).

12. To note the minutes of the meeting of the 23rd June 2015

The minutes of the 23rd June 2015 were noted.

13. Matters arising not on the Agenda.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Cone tree, icicle lights, little blizzards and lights for County Hall have all been ordered.

Mr Minshall asked that the discussion of the 2015 event be brought forward as he had to attend another meeting at 2.15pm. All agreed.

Introductions took place of all present for the benefit of Mr Tait.

14. To discuss the 2015 event

Mrs Jack gave an outline of the event from Wednesday Market through to Saturday Market. The Pipe Band usually lead the crowd and the Deputy Town Clerk is to contact the Band to book them for the event.

Mr Tait reported that the Flemingate site opens on the 27th October and wishes to ensure the Flemingate site is incorporated into the events in the town. The Flemingate Centre will have a large Christmas Tree and A free shuttle bus is in place for three years from the Flemingate Centre to the town centre. The advantages and disadvantages of a road closure for this area were discussed. Mr Towse said that a traffic management plan would be needed with lots of stewards to ensure the crowd was kept safe if roads were closed from Flemingate to Saturday Market.

It was agreed that the Mayor of Beverley and Ben Shires would be transported to the Flemingate Centre for 2.15pm to welcome the Flemingate Centre as it is their first Christmas in the town and to light up the Christmas Tree. The Mayor of Beverley and Ben Shires would then be transported by car to the Wednesday Market for 2.55pm. The Deputy Town Clerk is to contact the schools to see if a school choir is available to sing at the Flemingate Centre.

Cllr Dodsworth suggested a sleigh for Father Christmas but it was agreed due to the volume of people this would not be appropriate. Father Christmas can arrive in the sleigh and then walk with the crowd to Saturday Market and his sleigh will be sited for him.

Mr Minshall reported that the Chamber of Trade' part of this year's event is similar to last year. There will not be a snow globe or movie. Mr Minshall reported that:

1. There will be small attractions in Toll Gavel to ensure the feel of the event travels through from Wednesday Market to Saturday Market but these would be chosen so as not to prohibit the flow of the crowd.
2. The ice rink will be in place as this is a good attraction.
3. Beverley FM is on board to support. The Deputy Town Clerk is to contact ERYC regarding the electricity in Saturday Market to try to avoid the problems that arose last year. Mr Minshall is to provide the requirements of electricity so this can be forwarded to ERYC.
4. John2 Chefs will be present
5. George Tucker (Fair Man) is attending

6. There will be charity stalls in Saturday Market.

Enquiries are being received about having roast chestnuts/potatoes at the event and the Deputy Town Clerk is to check with the insurance company as to the requirements for these.

Mr Towse and Mr Minshall are to meet to discuss the requirements of space around attractions for the movement of people.

Mr Tait asked if the Beverley Minster were involved in the event. The Minster is involved in the traditional part of the event at the Market Cross Service.

Mr Minshall and Mr Tait left the meeting at 2.15pm.

15. To receive the financial accounts

The Deputy Town Clerk reported there is £7052 in the Town Council account and Mrs Jack reported there is £10686.78 in the Appeal Account. Orders for the cone tree, little blizzards, icicle lights and lighting for County Hall all have been ordered. Invoices are awaited which will reduce the funds.

16. To discuss the future of the erection of the Christmas trees

Christmas Trees are not being put up this year due to the decreasing number, the hire of cherry picker, bracket testing costs. Letters are being delivered by the Appeals Group to all traders.

Members wished the businesses to be involved in the Christmas light event and suggested that the shops are encouraged to decorate their window for a fee of £10. A letter could be put in each window which would create a phase with the prize being a hamper from local businesses. The business pays £10 and receives a letter from the Town Council to place in their window. Families would be able to pick up entry forms from local businesses and enter for free. Letters are to be delivered to all businesses by Councillors to ask them to participate.

17. To discuss the best lamp posts to put the little blizzards' sponsors notices

It was agreed that sponsors' names for the little blizzards would be in the programme.

18. To receive an update on fund raising events

Cllr Dodsworth said he is prepared to go into Debenhams as Father Christmas to raise funds for the Appeal Group and contact would be made with Debenhams.

Mrs Jack reported that

- (a) A Fashion Show has been organised by Browns on the 8th October and tickets are available in Browns on the handbag stall.
- (b) A Skin Care event is being held on the 21st October.
- (c) A Flower Demo event is being held on the 18th November.
- (d) At the Lighting up Event, a stall is being held.

A bag pack is taking place in Tesco on the 21st November and volunteers are required. Cllr Dodsworth may be able to get volunteers to assist. Father Christmas is also to be present.

Mrs Jack reported that they now have a sponsor for high-vis-vests and tee-shirts which can be worn at events.

18. To discuss the 2015 event

Moved to item 14

19. To consider any future purchases

No future purchases considered. Mr Burton said that he is checking the Beverley Lions' lights and may need to purchase some additional lights for any that are not working and will notify the Deputy Town Clerk so an order can be placed.

Date of Next Meeting: 20th October 2015 at 1.30pm at 12 Well Lane.