#### **WELLS CITY COUNCIL**

# MINUTES OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM MEETING HELD IN THE EAST ROOM, WELLS TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY $11^{TH}$ NOVEMBER 2015 AT 6.00 PM.

**PRESENT**: Cllrs: A Gibson (Deputy Mayor; Chairman); R MacKenzie;

Mr M Johns, Wells Chamber of Commerce Mr M Tobin, Swan Hotel / Visit Somerset Ms T Chichester, 'B&B' representative

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Town Clerk: F White

Bill Lloyd, Director, Cedars Hall, Wells Cathedral School

3 members of the public

#### 15/28CT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs C Cox; D Baker; J Osman; G Wilson (The Mayor)

Dr P Richards, Wells Cathedral Ms C Winter, Wells Civic Society Ms R Martin, The Bishops Palace

Mr A Webb, Wells Museum/Visitor Information

#### 15/29CT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

#### 15/30CT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on **9**<sup>TH</sup> **SEPTEMBER** 2015 were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

#### **COOPTION OF NEW MEMBER**

Terri Chichester was co-opted and welcomed onto the Forum.

#### 15/31CT MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Director of Cedars Hall spoke about the project. There is an informal community event planned for June 2016 and a formal opening for autumn 2016.

#### 15/32CT DESTINATION WELLS

Mark Tobin reported from a very successful event hosting 28 quality tour operators from the far east.

#### 15/33CT VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Bid to Mendip Tourism Ltd

The Town Clerk presented the draft bid and copies were circulated for discussion. Members were happy with the draft and agreed it would be progressed to Mendip Tourism Ltd.

Branding for the new site: it was agreed any suggestions and ideas should be emailed to the Town Clerk in the next few weeks for consideration. It was agreed the aim is to keep the look as simple as possible, clearly Wells, with some key iconic images and the city coat of arms.

Members felt that the 'wellssomerset' domain name is important in web-searching. It was made clear that this will be a stand-alone website, managed by a public body (the City Council) on behalf of the city. There will be no charges and no sales. 'Contact us' enquiries will be promptly actioned by city council staff and redirected where appropriate.

Comments submitted by Andrew Webb, (VIS and Wells Museum), were considered. Appreciation was expressed for all that has been done in a voluntary capacity to keep the website going in the interim.

All other services continue to be provided as before, from the VIS at the Museum. Multi- service points such as the distribution point at the Town Hall reception are providing a useful supplementary service. The full service provided by the volunteers at the Museum VIS is appreciated.

Other projects are being developed, such as the pilot touchscreen, which was available to view at the meeting.

#### 15/34CT FORTHCOMING CITY EVENTS

- Friday 20th November: Wells Carnival and Fun Fair
- 23rd-24th November: Christmas lights go up (evenings)
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Christmas shopping event
- 5<sup>th</sup> December: Small Business Saturday free parking in Union St car park
- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December: The Reindeer Parade

#### 2016

- 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 The Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday
- April 2016 Film Festival at Wells Cinema
- May 2016 Wells Brocante Fair date to be confirmed
- 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016: 'Music Circus'; an open invitation to Cedars Hall
- 10/ 11/12<sup>th</sup> June 2016: Bishop's Palace Garden Festival

It was agreed to request that the Union flags be displayed in the High Street during the celebrations of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### 15/35CT REPORTS FROM OTHER GROUPS

Wells Heritage Open Day

The Town Clerk reported this event is part of a national network becoming increasingly successful in Wells. The City Council is encouraging participation, coordination and publicity for 2016.

## 15/36CT ANY OTHER MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT Items for future agenda:

- i. Car parking
- ii. Coach drop-off and coach parking

### **15/37CT DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** 6pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016