

LOUGHBOROUGH CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on Monday 17th July 2006

In attendance

Adrian McInnes	President	William Davis
Vicki Brind	Secretary	Carillon Windows
Michael Smallman	Vice President	Del Rosa Developments Ltd
Brian McInnes	Vice President	Astra Zeneca
Jim Harkness		Travail Employment Group
Alvin Bailiss		Zodiac Recruitment
Ivor Lovesey		Market Traders Association
Stephen Foster		Rent A Washa
Darren Jones		Blueline Entertainment
Robert White		R & J Antiques
David Exley		The Rushes Shopping Centre
Philip Collin		Charnwood Funerals

1. Apologies for Absence

David Pagett-Wright, Karen Cunnington, Martin Shannon, Paul Hull, Tony Simons, Roy Jessop, Gareth Bowen, Alex Reid

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting 19/05/06 were accepted as a true record. David Pagett-Wright emailed his apologies and suggested to the committee his proposed Age Discrimination presentation be shelved as Leicestershire Chamber have organised an identical event for the 27th September, to which all our members will have received an invite.

3. Local business issues

Loughborough Parish Green Project

AMcI reported that the second phase was now well under way and should be completed within the next few weeks.

4. Correspondence

- Credit note received from Leicestershire Chamber against the original invoice for affiliate membership dated 28/03/06 and a revised invoice issued. VB to forward onto the Treasurer Gareth Bowen for immediate payment.

Action: VB/GB

- Development Service Delivery Forum. Improving delivery of planning and building control service. MS to attend next meeting in August.

Action: MS

5. Sub Committees

1. Charnwood Community Safety Partnership

Alvin Bailiss: Nothing to report.

2. CCTV

Alvin Bailiss: AB announced that they hoped to raise in the region of £70,000 and allocate funding accordingly. Peter Hinton has agreed to carry out a short presentation for the Chamber and AB is to suggest that this be held at our October meeting.

Action: AB

3. Fairtrade Streeing Group

Martin Shannon: MS emailed his apologies but confirmed that there had been no further meeting of the Fairtrade so nothing to report.

4. Town Team

David Pagett-Wright and Brian McInnes reported that the meeting of the Town Team held on the 28th June had been with regard to 'Development Opportunities'. MS voiced his concerns over the development of the Devonshire Square and Aumberry Gap site. In particular the loss of valuable car parking spaces within the Cattle Market. It was suggested that the Chamber issues a formal response and agreed that AMcI/BMcI/MS/DPW as members of the Town Team would together put forward our concerns.

It was further agreed they would email all committee members with a copy of their response and this will be discussed at our next meeting in August.

5. Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)

Charnwood Together.

Adrian McInnes: AMcI was unable to attend the last meeting, however Brian McInnes and David Pagett-Wright both attended. BMcI reported on the 'Development Opportunities' discussed by NEMA within the '3 cities' (Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire).

Once again concerns were raised that Loughborough is being overlooked! BMcI suggested that we should have representation on the 'Economic Work Stream' of Charnwood Together to ensure we have full awareness of what's on offer and understand the economic benefit of the 3 cities.

Action AMcI

6. Loughborough Town Centre Partnership

Adrian McInnes/Darren Jones: DJ reported that there was a strong appetite and political will for the partnership following several recent meetings. AMcI has been elected as Chair of the Interim Board.

On Saturday the Town Centre Partnership hosted a festival on Churchgate, which raised money for a deserving charity and proved to a great success. AMcI had opened the event with full coverage by the Loughborough Echo.

The next meeting of the board will be tomorrow (Tuesday 18th July). It is suggested that a questionnaire be issued to local retailers to establish what it is they want to see.

7. ICC (Independent Consultative Committee)

Phil Colin: PC reported the next meeting was to be held on Friday 21st July which he would be attending and would report on at our next meeting in August.

Action: PC

6. Membership

No new applications have been received although we are in discussions with several interested parties and have arranged to send out application forms within the week.

Action: VB

AMcI reported on an excellent meeting with Gareth Bowen (Treasurer) and now had an up to date view on current membership. We currently have 80 members, which includes 5 Honorary members and 15 members also have yet to pay! We also have a list of lapsed members, which we will be contacting shortly in the hope that they will join again.

AMcI confirmed that he would liaise with Roy Jessop/Michael Smallman & Brian McInnes on the marketing of the Chamber and the recruitment of more members.

Action: AB

Suggestions were made to utilise our Annual Cocktail Party as a good networking opportunity and an open invite to potential members as well as existing ones. It was also suggested that some of our events be more structured towards business/networking opportunities rather than purely social.

Any additional thoughts or suggestion can be emailed to our secretary at secretary@loughboroughchamber.co.uk .

Once again AMcI urged all members to approach any local business or retailers they dealt with and drive home the benefits of Chamber Membership!

A meeting has been arranged between AMcI/BMcI/MS/JH on 26th July at 12.00 at the Ramada Hotel to discuss membership issues. AMcI to invite R Jessop.

7. Marketing

Chamber Website: The Chamber web site sub-committee is still as yet to meet to review the web-site and offer any new ideas/suggestions. Martin Shannon along with his apologies has reiterated his interest and willingness to remain involved with the web site sub-committee.

BMcI and Roy Jessop also showed interest in developing the web-site along with AMcI. A meeting to be arranged at a convenient time for all.

Action: AMcI/BMcI

AMcI confirmed that he had now obtained a costing and sample of a Loughborough Chamber or Trade & Commerce window/car sticker. This was passed around the committee members and approval was unanimous. It was agreed that 400 stickers would be ordered and distributed to all members. **Action: AMcI**

Membership Certificates: The Membership Certificates are now printed, and have kindly been distributed to all members following their payment of annual subscription fee. The Chamber would like to extend a vote of thanks to Paul Hull of PSH Telecom Ltd for taking up the task at his own expense and time. The committee was in full agreement that the end result was excellent!

8. Treasurer's Report

AMcI announced that Treasurer Gareth Bowen had kindly produced a revised current budget, which confirmed a healthy balance and projected surplus.

9. Events

Golf Day – Monday 4th September 2006

We have received an excellent response to this event and have only a few spaces remaining. For further information visit our website @ www.loughboroughchamber.co.uk or contact our secretary on (01509) 218560 or email secretary@loughboroughchamber.co.uk

We would be very grateful if anyone is able to donate suitable prizes for presentation at this event. For further information please contact Adrian or Vicki.

LCTC Annual Cocktail Party - Wednesday 20th September 2006

This event will take place at The Ramada (Loughborough) Hotel. The Ramada have kindly offered to part-sponsor the event, for which we are very grateful. AMcI announced however that we are still on the look out for additional sponsorship, if anyone is interested please contact our secretary on (01509) 218560 or email secretary@loughboroughchamber.co.uk

It was decided that invitations would be sent to all members/guest on or around the 2nd week of August with RSVP by the 8th September. Additional invites will be available for any perspective/potential members/guests.

Race Evening - Wednesday 11th October 2006

AB reported that Loughborough Chamber were to host a 'Video Race Evening' at the Ramada Hotel on the above date. The cost of this event is £10.00 per head and will consist of 7 races in total. The evening will commence at 7.30 p.m. Further details available nearer the time.

LCTC Annual Dinner & Dance - Saturday 18th November 2006

The Annual Dinner Dance will be held at the Carillon Rooms, Masonic Hall, Ashby Square, Loughborough.

The evening will commence at 7.30 p.m. with a champagne reception followed by a 5 course dinner and dancing to 'Back in Time'

The cost of the evening is £35.00 per head (Corporate tables of 10 @ £350.00).

AB/MS reported that they would like to promote the Dinner/Dance at the Annual Cocktail Party in September.

AB/MS to liaise with AMcI who confirmed he had already produced an invite which he would forward to AB secretary in order that flyers could be made.

Action: AB/MS/AMcI

Skittles Night: AB to arrange a 'Skittles Night' during January 2007 at The Three Crowns, Hathern. Further details to follow.

Action:AB

Houses of Parliament: AMcI reported that he had written to Andy Reed's office regarding a proposed visit to the Houses of Parliament. And had suggested a visit in the spring of next year. He proposed an approximate number of 30 people. To which they had replied that they only take bookings a maximum of 6 months in advance so have arranged to make contact with us again in September.

An Audience with Andy Reed: AMcI announced that he had written to Andy Reeds office but had still to date had no reply.

Presentation by WS Atkins: Following the launch of the Loughborough Town Master plan, the Chamber has invited WS Atkins/Charnwood Borough Council to provide a presentation open to all members of Loughborough Chamber of Trade & Commerce.

AMcI confirmed he would contact Jonathan Hale of CBC and press for a date as soon as possible.

Action: AMcI

Forthcoming monthly Executive Committee Meetings

Monday 21 st August 2006	-	Ramada Hotel, Loughborough
Monday 18 th September 2006	-	Ramada Hotel, Loughborough
Monday 16 th October 2006	-	Ramada Hotel, Loughborough
Monday 20 th November 2006	-	Ramada Hotel, Loughborough
Monday 18 th December 2006	-	To be confirmed

10. Any other business

Jim Harkness reported on the extremely aggressive tactics of some charity workers within Loughborough town centre. JH had encountered first hand the pressure and abruptness some of these young people are demonstrating to the general public who are simply 'going about their business'. He reported that the individual obtains a commission from the charity concerned when they produce a client who agrees to sign up for a monthly/annual direct debit scheme.

It was suggested to the committee that this acted as a strong deterrent to people shopping within the town centre.

The Charity workers require a permit which are sanctioned by Charnwood Borough Council, so it was decided that AMcI would write to them to express the concerns of the Chamber and request that they monitor the harassment.

Action: AMcI

Darren Jones announced a positive development from Charnwood Borough Council in their agreement to various activities/events to be held during a two week period during the summer holidays.

The events planned are hoped to entice the shoppers to stay longer in the town whilst providing an array of activities for all children and adults alike. The venue will be The Queens Park in Loughborough and activities will run from the 30th July through to the 13th August.

DJ announced that various organisations had agreed to sponsor different days of activities and put forward the suggestion that Loughborough Chamber should also take up this opportunity.

AMcI asked DJ to leave the room at this point. AMcI spoke about the opportunity for the Chamber to support the town and the people of Loughborough, none more than the local retailers. He put it to the committee that the Chamber should offer its support and suggested we sponsor 2 days at cost of £150.00 per day. The committee voted unanimously in favour!

DJ re-entered the room and AMcI informed him of the Chambers decision.

It was further agreed that AMcI contacted Paul Hull to request his assistance with some promotional work in order to create some visual presence at these events.
(posters/flyers etc...)

Action: AMcI

VB reported that DPW was still liasing on dates for a joint social get together with The Racial Equality Group. This was going to be held at The Mugal and will be held during November.

Action DPW

AMcI to write to Jonathan Hale to express concerns over the delay in the production of market stalls.

Action: AMcI

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 21st August 2006 @ 6.00 p.m. - Ramada, Loughborough.

