

## LOUGHBOROUGH CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006

### In attendance

Michael Smallman	Acting President	Del Rosa Developments Ltd
David Pagett-Wright	Acting President	Moss Solicitors
Vicki Brind	Secretary	Carillon Windows
Gareth Bowen	Treasurer	HSBC
Martin Shannon		Marsh & Moss
Robert White		R & J Antiques
Ivor Lovesey		Market Traders Association
Tony Simons		Market Traders Association
Stephen Foster		Rent A Washa
Brian McInnes		Astra Zeneca
Alvin Bailiss		Zodiac Recruitment
David Exley		The Rushes Shopping Centre
Peter Sharpe		Honorary Member
Stuart Simpson		Rainbow International
Philip Collin		Charnwood Funerals

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Adrian McInnes, Roy Jessop, David Urwin, Karen Cunnington, Jim Harkness, Darren Jones, Phil Collin. (N.B. Philip Collin will arrive late as he is attending a Charnwood Community Safety Partnership meeting on behalf of the Chamber). Please also accept apologies from Stuart Simpson from our August meeting which were not noted in last months minutes.

### 2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting 21/08/06 were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

MS confirmed that he had met with AMcI to discuss a suitable reply to Charnwood Borough Council in response to the proposals laid out in the Town Centre Master Plan on behalf of The Loughborough Chamber of Trade & Commerce. AMcI was unable to attend the meeting so was unable to confirm whether our response had been sent. VB to liase with AMcI immediately and confirm.

**Action: VB**

N.B. It has since been confirmed that the letter was sent to Charnwood Borough Council.

## LCTC Golf Day

MS noted that since our last meeting the Chamber had held, what we hope will become an 'Annual Golf Day'. The event proved to be very successful and The Chamber would like to express thanks to all those who helped with the organisation of the event and to those who donated prizes.

### 3. Local business issues

#### **Loughborough Parish Green Project**

AMcI was unavailable, so no further update at this stage.

#### **Planning Application: P/06/2325/2 - Hospital Site, Baxtergate, Loughborough**

A long and detailed debate took place amongst the committee with regard to the proposed planning application.

It was agreed unanimously that a letter of objection would be written to emphasise our opposition, on behalf of the members of The Loughborough Chamber of Trade & Commerce, to the planning application under a number of headings as follows:-

- a) **Student Accommodation**  
The site is not an appropriate location for 600 student bed spaces. Minimal car parking will present future problems with town centre car parking. Student accommodation on this site does nothing to regenerate the town centre.
- b) **Design**  
The design lacks imagination, the buildings are too large and not compatible with others nearby. The design should be of a more traditional nature. Various concerns over the viability of future uses should student accommodation fail.
- c) **Mixed Use Considerations**  
It is felt that the site should, for the benefit of the town, be developed by appropriate mixed uses, i.e. retails, offices, commercial and residential.  
A variety of the above would regenerate the site and fulfil the needs for the future viability and vitality of the town.

- Letter of objection subsequently sent.

### 4. Correspondence

- Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Economic Survey.

## 5. Sub Committees

- i) Charnwood Community Safety Partnership  
Philip Collin: PC attended a meeting this evening 18/9/06 and later reported that a Community 'Payback' programme was currently in operation, where offenders were assisting in a clean up operation to assist the local community.
- ii) CCTV  
Alvin Bailiss: AB Confirmed that Peter Hinton would carry out a presentation to LCTC at our next meeting. Monday 16th October 2006.
- iii) Fairtrade Streeing Group  
Martin Shannon: MS confirmed that the next meeting of the Fairtrade is to be held during the first week of October. Update at next months meeting.
- iv) Town Team: Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006. RE: Master Plan. It was reported that the final report has been drafted and goes to Cabinet on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. VB to chase AMcI to ensure that the Chambers response has been submitted.
- v) Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)  
Charnwood Together.  
Adrian McInnes: AMcI was absent from this months meeting, however BMcI reported that Jonathan Hale had provided an update on Public Consultation on the Master Plan, Student Housing and Car Parking and other issues.
- vi) Loughborough Town Centre Partnership  
Adrian McInnes/Darren Jones: Both AMcI & DJ were absent from this months meeting. Ivor Lovesey announced that a survey had been issued to local retailers/businesses around the town to see what it was they were looking for? He reported that there had been a good response with almost 100 surveys being returned. A large number of people would like to improve vacant premises and achieve a more rapid response to keeping the town clean and tidy.

He confirmed that late night shopping will take place on Wednesday evenings instead of Fridays and in addition to this there will be a French Christmas Craft Market.

The Christmas lights will be turned on, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

The main concern once again was that awareness of activities was paramount, it is hoped that the addition of the Town Centre Partnership will bridge the gap between Charnwood Council and the retailers of Loughborough.

IL reported that a full schedule of events/activities planned should be in the public domain by the end of September.

- vii) ICC (Independent Consultative Committee)  
Phil Colin: PC was unavailable due to his attendance at the Community Safety Partnership meeting held this evening 18/9/06.

## **6. Membership**

VB reported that AMcI had put together a 'Membership Package' to include a discounted annual membership fee along with an invitation to our Annual Cocktail Party. VB had devised a list of approximately 35 local retailers and delivered these to the manager of each outlet. This has provided us with 3 additional new memberships this month; Subway, Aidan J Reed (Estate Agents & Chartered Surveyors) & Bartholowmuch 1889

## **7. Marketing**

Web Site: Brian McInnes announced that he was planning a meeting of the web-site sub-committee. Further details to follow.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Gareth Bowen confirmed a healthy balance of £4735.32, providing an unallocated balance of £700.00 available. He also noted that we only have 6 membership fees outstanding.

## **9. Events**

LCTC Annual Cocktail Party - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006

This event will take place at The Ramada (Loughborough) Hotel. The Ramda have kindly offered to part-sponsor the event, for which we are very grateful.

VB confirmed that the list of confirmed attendees was now complete and a copy had been forwarded to DPW who has kindly agreed to 'meet and greet'!

Video Race Evening - Postponed

AB announced that the above event was to be postponed, however it will be re-scheduled in the very near future. Further details available nearer the time.

**Action: AB**

LCTC Annual Dinner & Dance - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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).

We have already received an excellent response to this event, and have limited availability remaining. If you would like to attend please contact our secretary Vicki Brind as soon as possible on (01509) 218560 or email her at [secretary@loughboroughchamber.co.uk](mailto:secretary@loughboroughchamber.co.uk) to confirm availability.

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

LCTC (Executive Committee) & The Racial Equality Group.

A social evening has been arranged for Wednesday 8th November at The Mugal Indian Restaurant, The Rushes, Loughborough. All members are invited to attend and the cost will be approximately £10.00 per head.

Please could those interested confirm their attendance to Vicki by the end of October, either by email at [secretary@loughboroughchamber.co.uk](mailto:secretary@loughboroughchamber.co.uk) or by telephone on 01509 218560.

Houses of Parliament: VB reported that we had received a provisional date from Andy Reeds office regarding a proposed visit to the Houses of Parliament. They have put forward the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007. The trip will accommodate approximately 30 people.

It was suggested by Andy Reeds office that some members of the Chamber hold a meeting with Andy following the tour, rather than holding an additional 'audience with Andy Reed' at later date. This was put forward to the committee who unanimously voted in favour of pursuing an additional meet with Andy, preferably before the trip in February 2007.

AMcI to contact Andy Reeds office to confirm our booking for 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2007 and request an 'Audience with Andy Reed' possibly January 2007.

Presentation by WS Atkins: In discussion with Jonathan Hale, the President AMcI has agreed to wait until the next round of consultations before a presentation on the Master Plan is given.

Leicestershire Chamber Annual Luncheon: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, we have booked a table of 10, which is now full.

Executive Committee Christmas Meal: It was suggested that we once again hold our December meeting at The Printroom Café Bar, Woodgate, Loughborough. VB to make a provisional booking for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. **Action: VB**

## Forthcoming monthly Executive Committee Meetings

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	-	Ramada Hotel, Loughborough
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	-	Ramada Hotel, Loughborough
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2006	-	The Printroom Café Bar
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2007	-	Ramada Hotel, Loughborough
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2007 (AGM)	-	Ramada Hotel, Loughborough

### **10. Any other business**

Brian McInnes announced that he had had a brief meeting with David Pagett-Wright to discuss suggestions for an 'Annual Business Employer' award. BMCI/DPW have put together a brief criteria for the award and a suggestion of a cash prize monies. BMCI reported that sponsorship for the award/prize could be achieved.

It was suggested that the award commenced in 2008, to enable a full package to be put together and marketed to achieve its maximum potential.

Cyclists: Stephen Foster raised concerns over the number of cyclists within the town centre and the hazards they cause to our town/market shoppers, especially in and around the pedestrian areas.

It was decided that this would be an issue to raise at our next meeting, with Peter Hinton in attendance. It was further suggested that this issue be followed up with a letter from AMCI on behalf of the Chamber to CBC.

### **11. Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006 @ 6.00 p.m. - Ramada, Loughborough.**

