

Market Drayton Community Partnership - MDCP.

Notes of Market Drayton Community Partnership meeting held on Monday 26 January 2015 at 7.00 pm at Market Drayton Town Hall

1.15 Welcome and apologies

Present: Richard Priestley (Chairman), Alistair Duncan (Vice Chairman), Davina Bridge (Treasurer), Roy Senior, Steve Glover, Paul Middleton, Eric Davis, Charlotte Hollins, Lee Ridgway, Roger Hughes, Nicola Fisher, Ray Claydon, Kate Woodward (Secretary).

Apologies for absence : David Minnery, Hamish Armytage

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Davina Bridge and Paul Middleton. This meeting was originally scheduled to take place on 8 December 2014 but was postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

2.15. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were **approved** as a true record.

3.15 Matters arising

28.14 Neighbourhood Plan. It was **noted** that there was a registration of intent to determine a MD Neighbourhood Plan; the Town Council would lead a small committee and it was **agreed** that Alistair and Richard should represent the MDCP .

It was **noted** that Peter Wilson had been engaged to provide planning support and that work would begin as soon as possible.

36/14 Payment of Town Trail leaflets. It was **noted** that the payment for TT leaflets was now shown correctly on the Income & Expenditure sheet.

38.14 Use of former courts building. Further to the discussion about the future use of the Courts area above the Library, it was **noted** that Richard had written to Shropshire Council on behalf of the Partnership requesting information and expressing the hope that the space could be used for the purposes of Further Education. It was **noted** that discussions with regard to use of this facility were currently ongoing with a commercial company based in the town.

4.15 . MDCP Development Phase II

Richard presented a paper to stimulate discussion on the future development of the Partnership. It was **agreed** that the paper would be supported in principle and that a one off meeting should be convened of some MDCP members to work up details for action.

A discussion touched on recruitment of new members; it was **agreed** that this could best be achieved by personal contact and also by publicity in the Drayton Messenger.

It was **noted** that the MDCP was currently running several projects and it was **agreed** that other opportunities would be considered for action on the understanding that a balance of work was maintained.

5.15. Financial Report to 31 December 2014 .

Davina presented the up to date financial report, produced using the 'Accountz' system set up by Keith Roberts. It was **noted** that at the end of December 2014 there was £4,490 in the MDCP bank account. Richard thanked Davina for her work in creating a clear and useful set of accounts. Steve Glover proposed that the accounts be accepted; Roy Senior and Charlotte seconded this motion and the accounts were formally **agreed**.

6.15. Priorities for Action MDCP 2014/2015

The report was discussed as follows;

1. Canal area - it was **noted** that no further action was planned in the short-term.
2. Gateways to the town -it was **noted** that negotiations were ongoing with Shropshire Council and Joule's.
3. Arts festival - report to follow.
4. Cycling and triathlon. It was **noted** that no progress was likely in Market Drayton in the foreseeable future.
5. Grey4Gold. It was **noted** that the most recent work with this consortium was completed in October 2014.
6. Regeneration of the town. It was **agreed** that the Partnership should express thanks to Roger and Nicola for successfully developing 'starter' units and other new businesses and that the revitalisation of the Wednesday Market had been a key factor in regenerating the town. It was **agreed** that consideration would be given to how the Partnership might encourage traders to enhance the physical appearance of their premises.
7. It was **noted** that the Town Council now had responsibility for maintaining 'green' spaces around the town and that these were smart and attractively presented.

7.15. Reports

7.15.1. Drayton Arts Fest. Kate presented a verbal report on the Festival and Richard spoke on the provisional outturn of the DAF Income and Expenditure. It was **noted** that after expenditure on the Arts Festival there remained a balance of £1,226; Richard advised that final reconciliation was awaited but that this would be for sums well within the stated amount. It was **agreed** that the final balance should be retained within the MDCP accounts with a view to contributing towards the costs of a further Arts Festival in 2015.

7.15.2 MD Tourism and Visitor Group. It was noted that the Group was struggling to involve local businesses. It was intended that local businesses should offer their details to be listed on the new website to be launched at the end of January 2015 - www.discovermarketdrayton.co.uk. Comments and suggestions for enhancing and developing content will be very much welcomed. It was **noted** that the website was planned to become financially sustainable as soon as possible since monies for this project were limited.

7.15.3 Environment and Climate Change Group (ECCG)

It was **noted** that the ECC Group's major new project was awaiting authorisation at a forthcoming meeting of Shropshire Wildlife Trust and that a sum in the region of £30,000 - £40,000 had been awarded to the Group to improve Walkmill Meadows in association with Severn Trent Water.

There was a Pond Clearance event for volunteers arranged for 28 February 2015 - please see the Fordhall farm website for details of this and other events.

It was **noted** that Emma Walton now chaired the E&CCG which had written to Shropshire Council and the local press to support the decision to switch off street lights in the town between the hours of midnight and 5.30 am.

7.15.4 Incredible Edible (IEMD)

It was **noted** that the IEMD Group had expressed its thanks to Roger Hughes and the Town Council for allocating land at the Town Park in 2014 which had afforded IEMD a very good start. The Group would also like to thank Shropshire Housing Group for granting funds for the Incredible Pumpkin event which took place at Fairfields during the 2014 Arts Festival.

It was **noted** that the Town Council intended to plant some fruit trees on the former IEMD site at the Town Park which would include some heritage varieties.

8.15. News and Views

8.15.1 It was noted that

1. The MD Senior Citizens' Forum (MDSCF) was considering the establishment of a Social Enterprise and Social Centre which would require capital funding. It was **suggested** that the MDSCF might consider beginning with some low-cost plans, such as a pop-up style advice desk somewhere in the town. It was **noted** that MD Town Council would, in due course, assume responsibility for the Youth Service and the Youth Centre, devolved from Shropshire Council, and that space might then be negotiable at the Youth Centre.
2. 2015 was the centenary of the birth of organic pioneer Arthur Hollins. There would be a programme of celebratory events at Fordhall Farm and a book was due to be published, called Fordhall Farm: the Yoghourt Years.

8.15.2. It was **agreed** that the MDCP would, henceforth, hold meetings on a quarterly basis in addition to the Annual General Meeting.

8.15.3. It was **noted** that the Local Joint Committee (LJC) would hold an 'extraordinary' meeting on 2 March 2015 at Festival Drayton specifically to discuss the future of Youth Services. The regular LJC meeting was due to take place on 25 March 2015 at Adderley Village Hall. A meeting was being arranged to include consideration of local medical services and a project called 'compassionate communities'.

8.15.4. It was **noted** that the Shropshire Union Canal Society regularly featured in "What's On" events taking place in Market Drayton.

8.15.5. It was **noted** that Helen Vaughan of Shropshire Housing Group was seeking names for potential local committee members.

9.15. Date and time of next meeting.

It was **agreed** that the next meeting of the MDCP would take place on Monday 20 April 2015 at 7.00 pm at Market Drayton Town Hall.