

## **Market Drayton Community Partnership (MDCP)**

### **Notes of the Annual General and Business Meetings 2016 held at 7.00 pm on 27 June 2016 at Market Drayton Town Hall**

#### **12.16. Welcome and apologies**

**Present:** Richard Priestley (Chairman), Alistair Duncan (Vice Chairman) Davina Bridge (Treasurer), Suzanne Edwards, Roy Claydon, Steve Glover, Eric Davis, Roy Senior, Nicola Fisher, Hamish Armytage, Roger Hughes, Kate Woodward (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Charlotte Hollins, Lee Ridgway, Roy Aldcroft, Suzanne Byrnes-Antoney, Pauline and Ron Machin, David Minnery

#### **13.16. Annual General Meeting 2016**

Nicola Fisher took the chair for this item concerning the election of officers and welcomed Suzanne Edwards who has joined the Partnership to augment her work with the Drayton Arts Festival and other areas of the work of the MDCP.

#### **14.16 Nomination and election of officers for the MDCP Working Group:**

It was **noted** that the current incumbents of the posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were willing to stand for office again. No other names were proposed and it was therefore **agreed** that there would be a block vote of reappointment. Members **agreed** unanimously to reappoint the existing officers for the year to July 2017.

#### **15.16 The notes of the 2015 AGM** were circulated, reviewed and **agreed**

#### **16.16 Accounts for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.**

Davina presented the accounts for the above period which showed a positive outcome with a balance of £3,929.12 which were **agreed**. It was **agreed** that funding to support projects would continue to be sought from public and private bodies.

#### **17.16. MDCP – summary of actions 2014 – 2016.**

Kate presented this item which related to tasks drawn from the MD Town Plan of 2011 in which the Partnership either took a lead or provided a supporting role. The tasks included visitor and tourism issues, planning and development, services, facilities and biodiversity and climate change and enterprise and education, including a new partnership with the Market Drayton Learning Partnership and its stakeholder forum on which Davina is the MDCP representative.

Eric **agreed** to follow up the possibility of the designation of MD as a Walker Friendly Town

#### **18.16. General discussion**

It was **agreed** that the current projects supported by the MDCP were very worthwhile and that both the Canal and Walkmill Meadow work would be a great asset to the local environment as time goes on. It was **agreed** that our next meeting will include an agenda item focussing on the Canal based project.

#### **19.16 Business meeting agenda items were as follows:**

#### **20.16 Notes of the MDCP meeting held on 21 March 2016**

The notes of this meeting were **approved** for accuracy with the following corrections:

**6.16 Bus services in Market Drayton.** This item should read:.... ‘Eric reported on the recent **Senior Citizens Enterprise Survey (SCE)** ‘

**8.16 Young Peoples Partnership** .The final paragraph should read:.... ‘in the context of a special interest group **on a** quasi-autonomous **basis** as suggested’.

### **21.16 Matters arising.**

Eric drew the attention of the meeting to his paper, recently circulated to working group members, updating information on the review of local bus services. Richard thanked Eric for his report and for all his work on this issue. It was **agreed** that an update should be provided at the next meeting.

### **22.16 Reports and Presentations.**

#### **22.16.1 Incredible Edible Market Drayton (IEMD)**

Kate related Suzanne Byrnes-Antoney’s report on IEMD’s work this year. It was **noted** that the group had run two projects, a mixed-age gardening club at Longlands School and a planting event which was held at Corbet Court on 10 June during which plants grown by Suzanne were planted in raised beds with the help of residents, schoolchildren from the Infants’ School and other volunteers. This much appreciated intergenerational event was now in its third year. Suzanne advised that the IEMD Group continued to thrive with small-scale local activities.

#### **22.16.2. Drayton Arts Fest 2016**

Richard paid tribute to our new member Suzanne Edwards’ sterling work with the DraytonArtsFest since its inception in 2014. It was **noted** that plans for this year’s festival are well under way with a programme provisionally agreed. There are some new venues this year, including the Grove School. Events are, once again, wide-ranging, including, for the first time this year, a Wild Pickle workshop, a craft fair, jazz in the afternoon, a martial arts workshop, dance workshops, a sequence dance demonstration and a special evensong with poetry. The festival celebrates local talent and, as in previous years, most of the events offer admission free of charge.

#### **22.16.3. MD Tourism and Visitor group & canal developments**

Richard presented a report created by Hamish demonstrating future possible developments along the canal and improvements to the urban tow-path.

It was **noted** that these were mainly small-scale initiatives which can make a very real difference to the canal towpath area. Richard reported that the Canal and River Trust continues to be very supportive, for example, updating interpretation boards and expressed his appreciation for Shropshire Housing Group’s £4,900 grant to the project following an application that he and Nicola made. Work is in progress to develop the Arts and Heritage towpath project.

A much larger project would be the commercial development of a marina on the north side of the A51. Alistair outlined a concept which would involve some 200 – 260 berths in a high quality marina with a focus on tourism and potentially holiday lodges, shops a hotel etc which would benefit the town. It was **noted** that the Market Drayton site has attractive features and good road access, quite similar to a successful development in Staffordshire, ie. Barton Marina at Barton under Needwood.

It was **noted** that the Talbot Inn on Newcastle Road, Market Drayton was currently being considered for an application for designation as an Asset of Community Value and it was **agreed** that the MDCP will support this application. Richard asked Roy Claydon if he would report back on this item at our next meeting.

An observation was made that the canal should be dredged to prevent it silting up.

#### **22.16.4 Environment and Climate Change group**

This item was discussed earlier in the agenda in **item 17.16**. As Charlotte had sent her apologies for absence, Kate advised that there would not be a formal report on the work of this Group. It was **noted** that Charlotte had reported by email that work with Severn Trent Water continued on the transfer of the Walkmill Meadow lease to Shropshire Wildlife Trust and that the time-scale was prolonged because of the intricacies of ownership of the land involved.

Eric and Nicola **agreed** to follow up certain details.

#### **22.16.5 Market Drayton Neighbourhood Plan**

Richard presented a report summarising the key issues for inclusion in the MD Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan. A public presentation will be held in July at the Red Lion and there will be a further update at our next meeting. The Plan is still on course for completion by its target date of April 2017. It was **noted** that respondents to the survey published in the December 2016 issue of The Messenger were mostly in the over 45s age group and that to redress the balance, an initiative with the Grove School was instigated by Cllr. Roger Hughes in which students produced their own questionnaire relevant to young people's concerns.

It was **noted** that there was still ample opportunity for landowners or others to propose initiatives for the Plan, for example there is a pressing need for more bungalows to be built to accommodate the independent living of an increasingly elderly population.

#### **22.16.6 Proposed Young People's Partnership.**

David Minnery, in his position as Shropshire Councils Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, had proposed the concept that a Young People's Partnership should be considered in the town. It was **agreed** that:

1. Once such a group was established, it could, if it so wished, be established under the umbrella of the MDCP and viewed as a free-standing quasi autonomous group.
2. That the Grove School had a number of student ambassadors who have already worked with Nicola and Roger
3. In the autumn term, Nicola and Suzanne Edwards would contact the head teacher to discuss the project.
4. This would be an agenda item for our next meeting.

#### **23.16. Any other business / news and views**

It was **noted** that the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner had been invited to be present at a meeting in the town. The date has been agreed as 29 September 2016 from 4.30 pm – 7.00 pm; the venue was to be confirmed.

A question was raised about the availability of anti-litter signs which might be erected by the canal side; Nicola **agreed** to investigate whether any were available for use.

Richard thanked everyone for their attendance and noted that there were a number of items for the next agenda.

It was **noted** that copies of all the reports etc had been previously circulated to all MDCP members

#### **24.16. Date and time of next meeting.**

It was **agreed** that the next meeting of the MDCP would be held on **Monday 19 September 2016 at 7.00 pm at Market Drayton Town Hall**. Eric offered his apologies for this meeting.