



Dartmouth and District Chamber of Trade

Meeting 17/2/2009

Minutes

Present:-

Sue Thompson-Dartmouth TIC, Hilary Bastone-Riverside Fashions, Helen Lloyd-Dartmouth Ice Cream Co, Paul Reach-D'Art Gallery, Steve Thomas-Trish Thomas Jewellery, Tessa de Galleani-Dartmouth Living, Tracie Lange-Eastleys, Chris Robinson-Shipmates, Amelia Freeth-Hooper and Wollen, Sarah Duggan-Baxters, Dave Cawley-Timestep, Mark Simpson-By the Dart

Apologies:-

Doug Twigg-D&K Society

Matters arising from last month

The minutes of the last meeting are to be amended as follows:-

6. 2009 not 2008

8. Re-word paragraph requested.

The minutes were otherwise proposed by Tessa de Galleani as being a true record and this was seconded by Steve Thomas.

Sarah Duggan to speak to Nigel Way re Marketing Manager application for funding from SDCLAG. Application form to be submitted asap

Tessa de Galleani advised that insurance for local events and festivals will be discussed by the new Community Committee.

Tessa de Galleani advised that there is a meeting planned for March to discuss the £134K 106 money which is to be spent on town regeneration. The Park and Ride funds are allocated by South Hams and it appears that this without town consultation.

New matters

1. Hilary Bastone raised the subject of the Town Council's parking policy and the fact that the Parking Group of Town representatives had not been given an opportunity to complete discussions on their plan. He advised that the TIC have their own plan which they wish to publish. He proposes that the Chamber and the TIC join together to propose a joint plan to South Hams and Devon County Council. A previous Parking Plan which has public consultation 4 years ago, was supported by 64% of the town with 74% agreeing to it in principal with some amendments.

2. A proposal was made that The Chamber accepts The TIC's invitation to join them to work together with all other interested parties, to resolve the parking issues and be able to encourage the action of The Town Council. The proposal was made by Sarah Duggan and seconded by Dave Cawley. All members were in favour with the exception of 2 abstentions.

3. Tessa de Galleani offered formal thanks to James and Clare Brown of Brown's Hotel for their hospitality at the January get-together.

4. Mark Simpson reported that he had attended the last Kingsbridge and Salcombe Chamber of Trade meeting. They charge £65 pa membership (£55 if paid by standing order) and have a large committee with a paid for part-time secretary. The January meeting was attended by 70 members plus 2 Mayors and 2 speakers. Tracie Lange commented that The Kingsbridge Chamber is regularly kept in the public eye which encourages people to be a part of it. Paul Reach commented that he believes that members need to see a value and a benefit. Dave Cawley raised the venue of the Yacht Club as being more welcoming (This is not possible as it has permanent bookings on Tuesdays) and that networking get-togethers are beneficial.

5. Tessa de Galleani advised that The Chamber has a role to support it's members and The Chairman can raise issues on a members behalf with the relevant parties.

6. Mark Simpson advised that Torbay Council have a scheme named Boost organised by Clive Hamnett which is a retail initiative. He will investigate whether it can be applied to South Hams. If so, this could be presented to The Chamber in May?

7. The Chamber Committee presented their plans for a different format for future meetings with a mixture of speakers, networking and different topics for discussion to enable members to choose which meetings would interest them the most. Business needs to be stimulated for everyone in Dartmouth and the Chamber wishes to help as much as possible with the next 2 meetings concentrating on this. March will concentrate on this and there will be a trade show for support businesses held at The Yacht Club on 30th April. A full plan for the year is issued with this mail.

Mark Simpson thought the trade show a great idea and Dave Cawley suggested that accommodation providers be invited. Amelia Freeth advised that Torbay do a similar event for the hoteliers which includes a lunch and speakers. Tessa de Galleani emphasised that we need to understand the businesses and their needs more.

8. Hilary Bastone advised that the Local Development Framework are discussing the boundary moves of the town and the expansion of Townstal. There will be consultation in April/May. HB suggested that the Chamber should help shape the plan.

9. Steve Thomas brought The Chambers attention to the Born Hectic proposal for a summer market. Hilary Bastone proposed that it was not supported, this was seconded by Steve Thomas and the vote was carried unanimously. Chris Robinson did not agree with the way Candlelit Dartmouth had been mentioned in the Born Hectic proposal.

10. Steve Thomas will present ideas for Summer Promenades events at the next meeting. He does not believe that there are enough family dining opportunities and that the South Embankment could be used as a venue for local restaurants in the summer. He has initial support from the Chairmen of the Food Festival, Music Festival and James Brown. Sarah Duggan suggested that such an event could encourage late night opening in the retailers. Dave Cawley offered support and PR.

Any other business

The TIC, Chamber and Harbour Authority to meet to discuss the greeting of cruise ships.

Paul Reach advised that The Community Committee feedback from the meeting was that it could be useful but needs to be well organised.

NB There is a vacancy for a secretary on The Chamber committee. Please speak to Sarah Duggan at Baxters Gallery 01803 83900 if you are interested.

The next meeting will be held on March 17th at 6pm in The Green Room at The Flavel.