



Dartmouth Chamber of Trade & Business The Business Voice of Dartmouth and District

Minutes of Meeting on 18th December 2007 at The Royal Castle Library, Dartmouth

Present: Adam Edsall (Chairman - Dartmouth Ice Cream Company), Helen Lloyd (Dartmouth Ice Cream Company), Sarah Duggan (Baxters gallery), Steve Thomas (Trish Thomas Jewellery), Tessa de Galleani (Dartmouth Living), Hilary Bastone (Riverside Fashions), Doug Twigg (Dartmouth & Kingswear Society), Paul Reach (D'art Gallery), Chris Ball (The Flavel), Yvonne Cottam (DCC), Dave Cawley (Timestep), Roger & Justine Jordan (Cladda), Sue Thompson (Dartmouth TIC).

1. Apologies

Elaine Jeffery-Bailey (Harveys), Paul Weedon (Lloyds bank), Elaine Rogers (The Ark), Basil Cowling (Natwest), Liz (Dreams), Ian Campbell (Dart Pleasure Craft), Singer & Singer.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November were signed and agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Matters arising

- Letter opposing ferry price increase written and sent.
- Christmas party to be shelved until the New Year.

4. Chairman's report

- Discussions with TIC & Town Council regarding closer working relationship have been positive - Chamber will continue to meet with both groups.
- A new parking initiative has been launched by Cllr Jonathon Hawkins - another meeting has been set up for January 14th to take this forward.
- New TIC guide has been launched and distributed to all advertisers - TIC is looking at re-working the map for the shopping guide.
- TIC are looking for a retail representative on the committee - Chamber is represented by Sarah Duggan already but if anyone else is interested please come forward.
- Dart Business Development Scheme is looking into finding a business development officer.
- All in agreement to sign off last years business accounts.

5. Results of questionnaire

A brief overview of the results of the questionnaire relating to Chamber priorities for the coming year was given - please see separate page for these results.

The three top priorities were 1. Parking 2. Increasing Chamber membership and voice 3. Encouraging new businesses to locate and thrive in Dartmouth. Discussion followed regarding the best way to take these priorities forward:

1. Parking: although many parking plans are in circulation already it was decided that the Chamber will find out from the parking meeting in January the new starting point and base it's discussions on this.

2. Increasing Chamber membership & voice: a number of suggestions were put forward to address this priority including:

- giving more lectures and providing training opportunities for Chamber members: Dartmouth Community College offered use of their facilities for this purpose
- making more use of e-mail for discussions
- working more as a Business Club as per Kingsbridge & Salcombe and perhaps charging for events
- incentives for members, eg discount scheme

ACTION: It was suggested that all members were e-mailed to ask what discount they would be prepared to give other Chamber members and also what they would be interested in regarding talks, incentives. In addition it was also suggested that Paul Weedon may already have a list of benefits previously offered to Chamber members.

3. Encouraging new businesses to locate and thrive in Dartmouth: it was generally felt that this wasn't something the Chamber could take the lead on, but should strive to have a voice in any relevant discussions, eg Dart Business Development Scheme

ACTION: Chairman to contact Michael Cousins and other relevant people.

6. Feedback from Candlelit Dartmouth

A brief report was given by the Candlelit Dartmouth team who generally felt the event had been very successful, particularly the Friday night lantern procession. Anecdotal reports so far had been very positive eg. Browns doing more covers on the Friday night than ever before. A formal feedback form will be issued in due course and a wash-up meeting of all interested parties is to take place in the new year. The Candlelit Committee were formally thanked for all their hard work.

7. Request for funding from Dartmouth in Bloom and Christmas lights

As it is generally a Chamber policy to only provide seed funding to projects, both these requests were turned down.

8. Date of next meeting

January 22nd - Royal Castle Hotel, Library @ 6pm.

Signed

Date



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Results of questionnaire relating to Chamber priorities

Response

- A total of 62 questionnaires were distributed either by e-mail or by hand. A total of 20 were returned (32%).
- Of these 20 were from restaurants/cafes, 13 from other retail, 3 from Associate Chamber members and 2 from other businesses.

Additional issues raised

In addition to those issues included in the initial questionnaire further issues raised were:

- Employment of a shared store detective.
- Increased business advice for members.
- Building on Candlelit Dartmouth.

Major priorities

The issues that emerged as of greatest importance to the Chamber were:

1. Finding a solution to parking
2. Increasing the Chamber membership & voice
3. Encouraging new businesses to locate and thrive in Dartmouth

The only other issues that received more than a single vote were in order of importance to members) :

- Appointing of an Honorary Chairperson
- Improving the Park & Ride
- Exploring closer links with TIC and other local organisations
- Encouraging provision of more affordable housing
- Pursuing the appointment of a marketing manager
- Increasing members involvement with running of Chamber projects

Other comments made

- We need to work to ensure Dartmouth town, Kingswear & Townstal are a single community.
- In addition to the priorities chosen we need to be able to act swiftly as other issues arise.