

MINUTES OF THE TOWN PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH MAY, 2014

Present: Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr, Mrs S Forster, R Meir, Miss S Morrison, I Paul, K Shaw, G A Shepherd, C Snowball, R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors R Arthur, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs H Cahill, S Cudlip

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded prior to the start of the meeting of the need to disclose any interests, prejudicial or personal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF TOWN PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RECOMMENDED Councillor E. Bell be appointed Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

(Councillor E Bell in the Chair)

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE TOWN PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RECOMMENDED Councillor C Snowball be appointed Vice - Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

4. FOCUS OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to a decision taken at the last meeting of the Full Council, this Committee had been reinstated to meet on a bi-monthly basis with the aim of promoting Seaham as a destination resort. Suggestions were invited from Members with regard to what they would consider to be objectives of the Committee and the following is a summary of the comments made:

- (i) Swimming pool.
- (ii) The siting of information signage within the town is poor, particularly in the vicinity of the railway station.
- (iii) Last weekend the Low Tide Day event had taken place in the town, organised by the Durham Heritage Coast and this information had not been made known to the Town Council. It was a bigger event than last year and was not well

publicised. It was considered that the County Council should involve the Town Council more in such events, particularly in relation to events held within the town. It was the general consensus that this Committee should speak to all the different partnerships to ensure that if an event is to take place in Seaham that the Town Council is informed in advance.

- (iv) Both Asda and Marks and Spencer had arranged individual litter picks on the beach at different times and neither event was promoted well enough with the consequence of poor attendance. More information should be made available by external bodies.
- (v) A suggestion was put forward that two representatives of Destination Seaham could be co-opted on to this Committee and be invited to attend all future meetings. This would ensure, with two-way discussion, that the Town Council was made aware of Destination Seaham's activities within the town. It was commented that more Members of the Town Council should, perhaps be more involved with Destination Seaham, rather than the other way around. In discussion it was suggested that it may be better to extend an invitation to representatives of the Destination Seaham group to attend a future meeting to report on what they were involved with. Members were advised that there were 2 or 3 Elected Members who regularly attended the Destination Seaham meetings who could feed back information to the Town Council. Their nominations to serve on Destination Seaham had not been included on the appointments to outside bodies and this required further discussion. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that partnership working between the Town Council and other groups had been successful in recent years and gave as an example the classic car show and the Armed Forces Day.
- (vi) A Member reported that a kayaking club, yachting club and rowing club were being developed within the Marina and again the Town Council were not aware of this. A discussion had also taken place with business people and representatives from the Heritage Centre who were concerned about the lack of information that was forthcoming from Durham County Council. This was specifically in relation to re-development of the north pier at which time the road would be inaccessible to the public. As a result of this there were a number of complaints made, however it was not known who at Durham County Council these complaints should be directed to.
- (vii) A suggestion was put forward to possibly cut off the Terrace Green during the summer months and make it a pedestrianised area and it was queried whether this would be worth pursuing. In discussion it was felt that this may cause more problems when considering cars accessing and egressing the area.
- (viii) Parking was another issue with the increased amount of people coming into the town.

- (ix) The provision of additional leisure facilities within the town was an area that should be explored.
- (x) Unsightly buildings in the town – Is there any way to put pressure on owners of properties to keep their buildings up to a relevant standard.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information now reported.
- (ii) Durham County Council and the Durham Heritage Coast be contacted with a request that the Town Council be kept updated and advised in advance of any potential event which was to take place in Seaham.
- (iii) Efforts be made to improve partnership working with the business community so that more advance information is provided to the Town Council in relation to any activities they would be promoting within the town.
- (iv) The appointment of Elected Members to serve on Destination Seaham be deferred for consideration at the next meeting.
- (v) The suggestion of co-option of representatives from Destination Seaham to this Committee be deferred for consideration at the next meeting.
- (vi) The suggestion put forward in relation to the Terrace Green be deferred for consideration at the next meeting.
- (vii) The suggestions put forward by Members which they considered to be worthy of further exploration be noted.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER, 2013

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

6. FUTURE SPEAKERS

The Committee was advised that no arrangements had been made with regard to future Speakers and Members were asked to submit suggestions and these are detailed below:

- Melanie Sensicle of Visit County Durham to be invited to the next meeting.
- A representative from Durham County Council's Highways Department who could provide relevant information in relation to blocking off roads.

- An representative from the Marina.
- Peter Coe or Tony Forster from Durham County Council’s Regeneration team.

RECOMMENDED appropriate invitations be extended to those individuals suggested.

7. THIS IS DURHAM

The Committee considered the information provided by This is Durham on activities planned for the week ahead. Copies of this and future publications would be held in the Member’s Library for information.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

8. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED the Council note that no press opportunities existed from this meeting.