

CWNP Business, Shopping & Tourism Topic Group Meeting Draft Minutes

Date: Thursday 16th January Windsor College

Co-Chairs: Claire Milne/Ingrid Fernandes

1. Attendees: Claire Milne, David Jessey, Marcia Malia, David Malia, Alison Logan, Sara Berwick
Apologies: Ingrid Fernandes, Amanda Bryett, Julia White, Susy and Colin Shearer, David Marshalsea.
2. Minutes of the last meeting were agreed
3. Matters arising
MM reported that RBWM has decided that all enforcement of planning hours and licensing now should be dealt with by the RBWM Licensing Dept. MM has ongoing correspondence with RBWM concerning PINK (club in central Windsor) which has been historically told by the Planning Inspectorate to close at Midnight on Friday and Saturday nights, but which is not doing so. Planning rulings are not being enforced by RBWM and often Licensing hours on premises are not the same as planning hours. Residents need clearer insight into the enforcement process. MM is to pull together information on this for our TG evidence base.
4. Draft report Section 2 Vision and section 3. Main Issues and objectives. CM presented the Draft Vision and Main Issues and Objectives document which she had amended from the previous meeting.
Amendments to the wording of Section 2 and 3 were suggested and agreed. See attached.

Specific areas of employment in Windsor were identified (Vale Road, Fairacres Industrial Estate, Vansittart Road Industrial Estate) and designated status discussed. It was agreed that any areas of employment lost need to be replaced with equivalent floor space elsewhere or Windsor risks becoming a dormitory town.

DJ as Chair of the Chamber of Commerce explained historical and factual background to many of the issues discussed which is invaluable for the TG.

Further discussions ranged across the following;

Standard of Architecture (some patches very poor in Peascod St e.g. Post Office, etc) and some not regarded by residents as in keeping with character e.g. Metrobank/Daniels Dept store.

Signage (DJ -Finger signs to be replaced imminently by the Town Partnership, paid for by section 106 money)

Riverside area possible improvements (suggestions; removal of the road, closure of Barry Avenue, parking area behind Sir Christopher Wren Hotel, promenade with cafes etc)

SB. Thames Street pavements and cleanliness (shabby and dirty)

Drain problems (DJ- Lower Peascod St pong and around the Windsor Royal Theatre where drains have collapsed and buildings can't be let until it is sorted out)

Significant known new possible employment sites-Old RHM Building behind the Police station on Alma Road. Police station closure and potential as commercial office space.

King Edward Court and Windsor Royal Shopping are both in private ownership (Scottish Widows & ?) but Peascod Street has individual landlords.

The status of organisations involved with business in Central Windsor was discussed- Windsor Town Forum (open to public discussion forum) and the Town Partnership (partnership between various organisations in central Windsor).

DJ-Campsies as leading commercial estate agent in the town.

5. **AOB.** SS gave Open Spaces TG report on progress. Open Spaces group has walked all of the key open spaces in the area and aim to get them to look their best, make them more inviting, accessible, and improve access. Specifically they have identified the Riverside area between the Home Park and the Windsor/Eton Bridge and suggest bridging the gap in the footpath between them. They are also working with the Cycle Forum in attempting to improve cycle routes,(and are bringing the Crown Estate into meetings) hoping to link Open spaces and cycle routes.

Actions before next meeting: ACTION -update required on the current status of the old RHM building which now has planning permission as a major employment site that will employ 1000 people. Is this for multiple firms?

ACTION SB to look at the proposed RBWM Local Plan to highlight bits relating to Business and inform the group. This will help us understand designated employment sites.

ACTION ALL To suggest questions to ask the public around the issues and email them to CM by 24th Jan.

6. **Next Business TG meeting, Tuesday Feb 11th Windsor College. 6.30pm.**

Section 2. VISION (High level picture of what we want to see)

- Preserve, enhance and support Windsor's distinct local character and cultural identity as a heritage town.
- Business buildings offices and shops should respect Windsor's heritage (but allow for the modern age and embrace new technology).
- Support Windsor as a prestige destination and employment location.
- Aim for a successful diverse vibrant and healthy local economy that meets and balances the needs of residents and businesses and visitors.
- Enhance accessibility to the town centre for visitors and businesses without disadvantaging residents.
- Endeavour to create a fantastic welcome for visitors and great first impression.
- Improve use of riverside areas.
- Support a distinctive public realm and open spaces.
- Support space for cultural and fun activities
- Encourage people to stay overnight

Section 3. MAIN ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES (specific goals)

1. Economic Health

Key fact: Windsor is losing jobs 6000 over the last 5 years.

- a) Encourage business growth at a sustainable level to maintain or increase the current supply of employment floor space.
- b) Encourage start ups and small businesses and aspire to create incubator units to maintain economic vibrancy and diversity and encourage a start up culture
- c) Encourage retail diversity.
- d) Attract major employers/prestige businesses/clean businesses/technology companies

2. Balance needs of residents/business/visitors

- e) Manage the night time economy in a more controlled way to reduce the adverse effects on residents & potential new business from noise and crime and reduce adverse impact on Windsor's reputation. Better enforcement of planning & licensing, tables and chairs, music, antisocial issues.

3. Management of access/parking

- f) Support the aims of the transport group to improve the management of traffic (parking, coaches, public transport, taxis) to reduce congestion, to improve accessibility to the town centre and Legoland to improve the quality of life for residents and businesses.

4. Best use of land/Visual impression

- g) Improve the riverside areas in keeping with the historic town but making better use of the asset of the river.
- h) Improve the visual first impression for visitors wherever possible; -buildings and architecture in keeping with a historic town, arrival facilities, signage, escalators, etc.
- g) Encourage more/good quality hotels, regular markets/Christmas markets.