



**Fowey Chamber of Commerce
Minutes of Committee Meeting
Tuesday 4th August 2015 Fowey Gallants 6pm**

Present: Mike Redmond – Joint Chair, Chris Williams – Joint Chair, Chris Price – Treasurer, Gill Greenway, Lynn Goold, Debbie Andrews, Julian Davies (Webb Street Co) Neil Hartswell (Regatta Committee) Karen Jane (Regatta Committee) Gretchen Veihmann (The Galley) Justine Hambly (Secretary)

Apologies: Eira Reed, Nigel Brady

Absent: Carol Townsend, Carol Morris, Sian Hill

Big Gig Review:

MR – Overall, the Big Gig was a great success with the majority of pubs and restaurants saying they saw increased business over the weekend and takings up on last year, shops generally reported little difference but it was agreed that there was no negative effect and they felt a positive buzz in the town. Feedback from visitors and locals has been very positive, with a few exceptions from those who are used to a quieter Fowey. It was noted that it would be good to have a clearer idea of the programme and what to expect from the bands playing and also that there could be more choice of food stalls and a clear programme of food demonstrations. Next year it was agreed that signage would need to be improved and also greater security and caretaking of the toilets (This applies to summer weekends generally) Apart from these few issues, the Big Gig was a great success and a great effort from Mike and his team, with a few tweaks to be made for next year. £700 was raised for Beth's Inspiration which has been match funded by Barclays Bank, donations have been made to other local charities as well as a contribution to a second defib for the town.

Christmas Market:

LG - The majority of traders are now in place. The application to Cornwall Council is in for use of Albert Quay where there will be activities and stalls that are more child orientated. Stilt-walkers have been employed to lead visitors through the town. Justine will be starting on the website in the next week or so after a meeting with Melissa, she is waiting for trader info and images from Live Events South West and some copy. The next task is to make a start on the programme.

After Summer Event:

CW – The Chamber is planning a 'Mini Mussel Fest' for Chamber members as an end of season social. The planned venue is Fowey Gallants, to be held early/mid October (Date TBC)

Financial Update:

CP – The Chamber is still in healthy profit despite last minute unexpected costs from The Big Gig,

these are expected to be recouped next year with increased sponsorship from St Austell Brewery. The Chamber is in a position where it can underwrite future events or use the funds to further the aims of the Chamber. New ideas and input are needed as to how the Chamber can use these funds to further support the business community. The on-going issues identified are, as always, parking, signage/traffic management and toilets but there is room to explore other ideas, opinions from members need to be sought. LG suggested that if a project could be identified, the Chamber could make applications for match funding and will approach the Cornwall Chamber for case studies and also invite Tasha Davis who is the Link Officer for Cornwall Council to the next meeting. It was agreed that the Chambers aims for this year have been achieved (to increase membership and improve on existing events) and that after the busy period the Chamber will formulate a plan for next steps.

*Since Tuesday's meeting DA has spoken to Councillor David Hughes and has the following feedback around the issues of parking, signage and toilets:

Sally Vincent has spoken to Rob Andrew who in turn has been in contact with Cornwall Council Legal Dept dealing with the transfer of the Caffa Mill toilets. There have been clauses in contract that solicitors haven't agreed to, and so the transfer time has been prolonged. It is understood that agreement has now been reached and Town Council are hoping to complete on Friday. Another issue is keys. 3 sets have been received by Sally, and none of them fit the locks. A 4th set are due to arrive tomorrow. One last consideration is the cleaning contract. This is ready to go at short notice. Conclusion: Best case scenario: Solicitors exchange, keys fit and cleaners are go - Toilets ready to use on Saturday. Worse case: Solicitors don't exchange Friday, the toilets won't be useable till next week (if keys and cleaners are good).

Traffic on Passage Lane, beyond Bodinnick Ferry. David Hughes is first point of contact for this. For traffic restrictions/yellow lines etc a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is required. This costs around £3500. A single Order can cover various parts of the town - and so an overview of Fowey's traffic problems can be considered under one Regulation Order and would cost the same amount.

Signage: Around 18 months ago there was a survey - Fowey Forum? That's where the figures for the costs to change the signs originate. The problem is that any survey becomes outdated soon after it is carried out. And so it has to be acted on quickly, otherwise it's a pointless exercise.

Money available: Cornwall Council has 'reactive' money but not for capital investment - ie. the Council are obliged to fill potholes, but have no money to resurface the road. This won't change in the short term.

Membership:

DA – Over the busy summer period there has not been much time to put effort into recruiting new members, although we do have 2 new businesses on board. After the summer DA/JH will look at involving other businesses that are not primarily retail/catering/accommodation.

There will be an event at Fowey Hall for members on the use of Twitter and other Social Media, led by Nick Waddington. Date TBC.

Any Other Business:

JH – Websites The template for the new Chamber website is ready to go and Susanna Stables has provided a brilliant selection of photographs to use, CP will be sending copy. However, work on the Christmas Market website is more pressing and needs to take priority. Waiting for content but it is underway.

KJ/NH – Regatta There is concern that with Graham Jane retiring this year and no successor in place and also a diminishing committee, that there will be difficulties continuing with the Regatta in its present form. There is a need for new impetus and someone to take on such a huge and complex event or otherwise to scale it down to a more local event over 3 or 4 days. It was agreed that it needed to be made clear across the community that the bottom line was, without some support and input they would have to accept the Regatta would need to change into a much more manageable event. Another option would be to employ someone. After this year's Regatta, their committee intend to hold an open meeting involving the whole town with this message. The Chamber offers its full support and will ensure that all members are aware.

Meeting concluded 7.30pm

Next meeting Tuesday 6th October. Venue TBC