



MINUTES OF MEETING – 2 November 6.00pm

The Crown Hotel, Wells Market Place

1. Apologies

Michael Johns, Tessa Munt, James North, Jon Orchard, Marc Osborne, Mike Tucker, Chris Winter

2. Introductions and welcome

Attending: Judith Ludovino (Chair), Simon Lawder, Loaye Agabani, Ian Ames-White, Jo Butt, Jeanne London, Andy Vallis, Jackie Adams

3. News and correspondence received

Somerset County Council are offering a variety of training opportunities, pdf attached.

Adrian l'Anson from Wells City Council has requested statistics/background business information from the Chamber. Judith has referred this enquiry to James North from Mendip DC as the Chamber don't hold particularly relevant information but Mendip DC have in the past.

4. News from members

The meeting thanked Ruth and Ian Ames-White for their hospitality hosting last month's meeting and thanks also to Mike Tucker for organizing catering. It was agreed unanimously by members present at the meeting that the Chamber should make a donation of £1000 to the Wells Mosaic project.

It was agreed that a possible donation to Strawberry Line should be deferred to the next meeting when it is hoped that Mike Tucker will be able to report on his connection with a possible supplier for the leaf blower.

Loaye Agabani reported that Wells City Council is supporting the renovation and improvement of the skate park, also the Portway Annexe will be purchased as a community building to host adult education and business for £360K within the next 3 weeks. LA also mentioned the civic awards scheduled for December 4th, that the Christmas lights would be turned on soon, and that the new market place bollards have been ordered and will be funded by £15K of European money.

Other members contributed news and observations: Jackie Adams reported how closely linked foot traffic seems to be with school holidays, with noticeably more activity in term time and also reported that the Shoplifters Group have been collaborating with Rob at Protec taking a lead. Ian Ames-White told the group that James Heapey had recently visited the Mosaic and also advised that a Cybercafe at



St Thomas's church would be taking place on Tuesdays. Simon Lawder advised the group that Neighborhood Watch would be launching fraud prevention advice, aimed at the elderly – in cooperation with the Wells Coronavirus Network. Andy Vallis mentioned that he had attended the launch of the Mendip Business Hub, a new business information resource run by MDC. Jo Butt told the group that the Truespeed network will shortly be extended to Glastonbury and Bath and expressed an interest in supporting local community groups. Jo also mentioned that Truespeed's wifi capability can be improved using "Deco" mesh booster systems, Ian said he had installed this and it had been transformational.

5. Member profiles

The new website has a section for "member profiles". Members attending encouraged to send photos and words to Judith ASAP to get this section properly populated.

6. Any other business

Members attending were invited by Matthew Minter and Wells Cathedral to view the Moon installation at the cathedral, so the official Chamber meeting was a little shorter than usual.

Meeting closed 6.40pm

Next meeting:

Monday 6th December 2021