

Alnwick Town Team

Minutes of the meeting of Alnwick Town Team held at 5pm on Tuesday 25th April 2017 at The Cottage, Alnwick Garden.

Present: Cllr. Alan Symmonds (Chairman), David Lovie (DL) (Civic Society), Elizabeth Jones (EJ) (Alnwick in Bloom), Dave Campbell (DC) (Northumberland County Council), Mark Brassell (MB) (Alnwick Garden), Carlo Biagioni (CB) (Chamber of Trade), Tim Kirton (TK) (Alnwick Town Council)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Philip Angier (PA) (Local Living).

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 28th March 2017

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising

Car parking spaces at The Malthouse development, Alnwick: TK reported that he had not received any response from the two emails he had sent to two Arch officers. CB reported that he had spoken to a member of staff on site who had stated that 33 additional car parking spaces were being provided for residents of the development.

The Northumberland Hall banners planning application is progressing but there is no news to report.

4. Tour of Britain Cycle Race

The Chairman introduced Clare Elliott from Culture Creative of Alnwick who are arranging The Tour of Britain cycle race which will pass through Alnwick.

CE reported that the Tour of Britain race will pass through Alnwick on Monday September 4th; the official announcement of the race was made just today.

The cyclists will leave Kielder at 10.30 hours and are expected to reach Alnwick at lunchtime, the precise time to be determined. The route will bring the cyclists into Alnwick along the B6341, down Clayport Bank into Market Street and turn sharp left outside Bailey's to proceed along Bondgate Within, through Narrowgate, down The Peth, over the Lion Bridge and out of the town. There will be a rolling road closure on the day which will be progressively lifted as soon as the last cyclist has passed. The final, detailed route for the whole race will be announced on or after June 22nd.

The schools will still be on holiday on September 4th and large crowds of holiday makers and visitors are expected so this is a real opportunity to sell and promote Alnwick and generate substantial revenues for Alnwick town businesses. Culture Creative wish to encourage businesses to make special offers for customers on the day. There will be street entertainments in the Market, including a bike stunt team.

Culture Creative are setting up a website for the event and invite all Alnwick businesses to provide links to their businesses which can be placed on the website.

The website will encourage visitors to park their cars in the Alnwick Garden car park and then walk through the Garden's thoroughfare and into the town centre to witness the race passing.

The meeting agreed that the features of the last Tour of Britain which passed through the town should be repeated this September, these included:

- Floral displays – Alnwick in Bloom to co-ordinate
- Photographic competition – Culture Creative would post the winning shots on the event website
- Displays of painted bikes throughout the town:
 - The Chamber of Trade will encourage its members to source suitable old bikes for painting in red or yellow.
 - The Town Team will place an article within the Northumberland Gazette appealing for unwanted bikes for this.
 - It was agreed that Gallery Youth be invited to participate in the preparation and painting of the bikes.
 - The Chairman advised that Alnwick Town Council could store the painted bikes within its Willowburn lock-up until they were needed on September 4th

The Chairman thanked CE for the presentation.

5. Updates

(a) County Council:

DC reported:

- Playhouse acquisition by NCC: Issues are being dealt with. EJ asked what size of space the new Library would have in the Playhouse, compared to the premises it is vacating; DC said this was not yet determined.
- The new Highways depot should still be completed by the end of April 2017.
- Discussions are ongoing with NEED Community Transport, for their acquisition of the old fire station.
- Former Duchess High School: No firm date for buildings demolition.
- Lindisfarne School sports hall: Discussions are being held with parties wishing to save the sports hall from demolition

(b) Town Council:

TK reported:

- **CCTV:** Decision hoped for by the end of May.
- **Neighbourhood Plan:** The referendum scheduled to take place on Thursday June 15th 2017 might be affected by the general election on June 8th.
- **Willowburn Industrial Estate:** No further information has been received from NCC on the proposed deallocation of Willowburn Industrial Estate for industry, nor had any further information been received from NCC as to when the planning application for housing would be considered by NCC's Planning Committee.
- **Lectern maps:** TK advised that the new fourth lectern will be installed outside your Move in Bondgate Within. The alternate sites on the cobbles close to the Robertson's Fountain had been discounted by NCC due to the proximity of a drain and potential obstruction of pedestrian access into the fountain. The Northumberland Gazette had in its April 20th edition, printed a photograph

of representatives of the sponsors of the new lectern maps, assembled around the Market Place lectern.

(c) Chamber of Trade:

CB advised that the Chamber of Trade had met with MB of the Alnwick Garden the previous week to discuss various issues, including car parking. MB had advised the Chamber of the dates when The Alnwick Garden will be particularly busy and therefore the school field next to the Bowling Club might be booked for car parking.

The Chamber had spoken to Lynne Ryan at NCC car parking who had advised that nothing could be done about parking until after the local council elections on May 4th.

EJ asked whether research has been done into whom is actually parking where and what the turnover of the car parks is; shorter parking times mean a higher turnover of cars which in turn is the equivalent of more parking spaces. CB replied that Alnwick had 1 and 2 hour plus some unlimited time car parks and that he had been told by NCC that it was not possible to have different car parking times in different Northumberland towns, they all had to be the same; however various Town Team members present stated that in their experience this was not the case and the times varied by town; Berwick for example has one hour, two-hour, three hour and all-day parking in various different locations within the town.

The Chairman reported that the Town Council will be reconvening the Parking Working Party to investigate the current situation and potential changes.

David Taylor and Steven Bell at the Chamber of Trade are working together to arrange a Development Fair to highlight the town and what it can offer to prospective new businesses; this would be promoted both nationally and regionally to encourage those looking at setting up business in order to consider Alnwick.

CB reported that the Chamber had met with Barry Wilson, Trevor Jones and EJ concerning improvements to the Column Field. Clearance of undergrowth had been undertaken and simple canopy of cherry blossoms would be planted adjacent to the Denwick Lane footpath. EJ is also looking at the provision of more seats in the Column Field.

DC advised the meeting that a contractor has been instructed to undertake remedial works in the Column Field around the transplanted Gordon Smith memorial tree.

(d) Local Living

PA had submitted apologies for absence but had circulated a report as follows:

- The Tourism Fair held at Willowburn the previous week had been very busy in terms of exhibitors and there may be a capacity issue for next year's fair. There had been a good "vibe" amongst the accommodation providers.
- The Easter Market is a little later than usual this year but there has been much social media chatter about the event.
- Football so far this year has been not bad but it is appreciated that these are early days.
- There is a lot of interest in tables at the Food Festival and at Taste of the North.

(e) The Alnwick Garden

MB advised that 18th November had been confirmed as the date for this year's Lantern Parade, using the same infrastructure from the Christmas Lights switch-on the night before. The Lantern Parade would be a repeat of last year's event but possibly with a slightly different route. Once again, Spark will attend.

MB said that two videos are to be made, one an advertisement for the Alnwick Garden and the other a two-minute video promoting Alnwick town and why to visit the town over the 6-week Advent and new year period: This is an opportunity to showcase what is on offer in Alnwick to thousands of people. Town Team members need to advise MB of the events/specials offered by Alnwick businesses/attractions for inclusion in the video by the end of June to give MB's team enough time to create the video

7. Any Other Business

DL reported that the Civic Society is planning a new publication entitled, "Alnwick's Heritage Heroes": The first half of the publication will be about the heritage heroes themselves including George Tate, S.R. Wilson, M. R. Curzon, Barbara Woodhouse, Armstrong and Hudspeth and the Civic Society itself. The second half of the publication will feature Alnwick's heritage itself. 2000 copies of the publication will be given out free. The publication will also include a map of Alnwick's Conservation Area and its listed buildings and a Heritage Walk.

The aim of the publication is to build the capacity and the membership of the Civic Society. The publication will be launched at the end of October 2017 which will feed into the Bailiffgate Museum exhibition, "Alnwick Then and Now" which will be held in November.

The Chairman and Mayor of Alnwick Cllr. Alan Symmonds wished the Civic Society every success with this venture

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th May 2017 at **5.30pm** at **The Pavilion**, Alnwick Garden (**please note this change of the usual time**).

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.10pm.