

THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT ITS NEXT MEETING

**A Meeting of the Newbury BID Christmas & Events Group was held on Monday
7th September 2015**

Attendance:

Andy Murrill (AM), Nigel Morrison (NM), Russell Downing (RD), Peta Stoddard-Compton (PSC), Caroline Edmunds (CE), Fiona Crooke Smith (FCS), Lionel Zeffertt (LZ), Suzanne Young (SY), Emma Herriotts (EH), Heather Evans (HE), Lewis Freeman (LF), Roscoe Young (RY)

1. Welcome

All were welcomed and introduced by the chair of the meeting, Russell Downing, deputizing for David Pickett.

2. Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of: Carolyn Taylor, Alison Bird, Rob Boobyer, David Pickett, Jodie MacAndrew, Rosy Wardell, Anita Hatch, Angela Thompson, Annette Bellamy, Jan Ferrer, Lyndsey Burns.

3. A.O.B:

None.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by CE and seconded by EH

5. Christmas

5.1 Christmas Village

RD summarized that the cut off for a decision was 1st September; due to a time running out and an insufficient number of stalls to generate revenue to cover the costs, it was agreed to postpone the Village for this year and focus on next year. All agreed that, following the last two years events, this year's event must not be a sub-standard event, and this is the correct decision. It was agreed that much of the work has already been done for 2016. The media message will be positive, and there is still agreement with NTC to use the park next year.

5.2 Late night shopping

A discussion took place around the late night shopping event. RD updated the group on the progress. Rides are booked, choirs are coming along well. Additional entertainment booked. Road closure extended until 9pm. Initial conversations regarding free parking are underway with WBC.

5.3 Switch On

On Sunday 29th November, from 12pm in the Market Place. Santa's grotto open 10am-4pm outside Town Hall (beside tree). Some entertainment booked

RESOLVED: That the updates be noted.

6. Review of key events

6.1 Newbury Food and Craft Fair Sunday 1st November

(a forerunner of the proposed monthly Newbury Artisan Market on the second Sunday of the month from March-September 2016). This will run along Bartholomew Street and Northbrook Street. The new event organisers have over 30 stalls booked already, lots of interest on website and Facebook pages.

6.2 Halloween Haunt Hunt – Friday 23rd October - Saturday 31st October

There are only two 2 spaces left. (These have been taken since the meeting). A workshop will run in Parkway, as before. Event will be advertised in Primary Times, NWN, Visit Newbury social media and on Jack FM.

6.3 Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window

Plans are afoot for this to run again, in the first two weeks in December; great publicity for those participating.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted

7. Footfall

RD presented the latest footfall report, a discussion took place regarding the figures. Newbury is still performing significantly better than other towns in the region. Year on year data should be available in approx. one month.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted

8 Road Closures

All in place, as before.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted

9. Other events

None to mention

10. A.O.B

10.1 A discussion took place around some of the recent business closures, e.g. Brazilian restaurant, Studio Thai.

10.2 LF updated the group that Bst Fitness will introduce parking permits from October 2015.

10.3 The new Premier Inn (to move into Park Way) has applied for a liquor license.

10.4 FCS reported much better footfall in Inches Yard.

10.5 A discussion took place around the boxing event on the coming weekend, all agreed communication could have been better, however confusion over license had held up communications. All felt it would be a good event to try out.

Next meeting: Monday 5th October 2015