



Newport (Shropshire) Town Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 13 April 2005
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Sally Wiggin – Town Mayor
Glyn Gratton – Deputy Town Mayor
David Adams
Martyn Edwards
Irene Evans
John Evans
Brenda Flowers
George Franks
Glyn Holland
Adrian Meredith
Janette Treagust
Bob Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk
Mrs Frances Harper –
Newport Regeneration Partnership

Members stood for a Minute's Silence in remembrance of the Reverend Rod Biddle who died on Sunday 3 April 2005.

294/04-05 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

There being no members of the public present, the meeting continued without suspension.

295/04-05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. David Adams and Glyn Gratton declared an interest in the grant application for the Street Fayre, as members of the Chamber of Commerce and took no part in the discussion or vote.

Cllr George Franks declared an interest in the grant application for the Newport Juniors Cricket Club as a member of the fund-raising committee and took no part in the discussion or vote.

296/04-05 NEWPORT REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Members welcomed Mrs Frances Harper who provided an update on Partnership issues. As background she reminded members of the structural changes to the partnership expanding the membership base to 20 organisations together with 5 parish councils. The Partnership is guided by a Board of Directors and has 5 major working groups which are:

Town Centre Development Group
Victoria Park / Canal Group
Community Development Group
Tourism and Promotions Group
Business Development and Inward Investment Group

The latter group works closely with Harper Adams University College.

Mrs Harper confirmed that the town has missed out on the main funding programme through the Market Towns Initiative and would need to look to Advantage West Midlands funding only if partnership money can be raised.

The main priority remains the improvement of the High Street which includes development of brown field sites behind the High Street frontages. There may be money in the transport / highways budget from Telford & Wrekin Borough as a base for matched funding. Section 106 money may also help with improvements to Stafford Street.

Other schemes still in the pipeline, such as the improvements to Victoria Park are unlikely to attract grant funding under current criteria as Newport is regarded as "too well off". Likewise lottery funding is now almost impossible for large schemes.

The Partnership has updated the town leaflet and is intending to spread it further and wider. It is currently with the printers but should be ready for distribution during May 2005.

Members thanked Mrs Harper for her presentation. One point for consideration with regard to Victoria Park was the possible re-opening of the stream, currently culverted.

297/04-05 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's engagements is **attached** at **Appendix 'A'**.