

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
Tuesday 1st March 2016**

Attendance:

David Pickett, Russell Downing, Suzanne Young, Caroline Edmunds, Lionel Zeffertt, Rob Boobyer, Alison Bird, Stephen Mckinnon, Steph Brown, Hedley Palmer, Fiona Crooks-Smith

1. Welcome

All were welcomed and introduced by the chair of the meeting, David Pickett.

2. Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of:
Nigel Morrison, Scott Waters, Lewsi Freeman, Annette Bellamy, Andy Murrill, Alex Herbert, Rupert Reeves

3. A.O.B:

Newbury In Bloom – Caroline Edmunds

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Lionel Zeffertt, seconded by Stephen McKinnon

5. Christmas Village

Russell Downing updated the group with the progress of the Village and the decision to progress with a break clause at the end of April. The contractor is chasing hard for traders and has the rides secured, now looking for other attractions to add to the village. NTC are to install a hard standing near the St Mary's road entrance, this will have grass grow through it so will not be visible. The idea of a land train was discussed by the group along with the fee structure for both deposit and rental. Stephen McKinnon asked what the cost to the BID would be – Russell Downing confirmed that there would be no cost to the BID.

RESOLVED: Icthus and NTC to discuss the rent and deposit fee structure

6. Footfall

Russell Downing presented the footfall report, January had a drop of 900 visitors compared with the previous year resulting in a 0.5% drop year-on-year. Saturdays remain buoyant and were stronger than January 15, however the rest of the week was dropping off with the exception of Monday's. Fiona Crooks-Smith commented that she was trading up on the previous year, this was in line with information received from Wilko's, and a number of evening economy venues, mainly restaurants. Parkway footfall was up 3.6%. Stephen McKinnon commented that his sources had said that the outlook was gloomy.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted

7. Other Events

Suzanne Young presented the events calendar and commented on the following upcoming events: Giant Easter Egg Hunt, Youth Activities – these will become a regular feature over the coming months taking place the second Sunday of the month from April - October, Artisan Market – the first of 2016 is due to take place on Sunday 27th March, the contractor has a good range and number of traders. The group discussed the Devizes to Westminster race.

RESOLVED: Suzanne Young to explore the options for the Devizes to Westminster race.

8. A.O.B.

Lionel Zeffertt proposed introducing a business referral scheme offering discounts to the work force. Newbury BID had tried this in the past but couldn't get enough businesses to sign up to make the scheme work. Russell Downing agreed to re-launch in the newsletter to see if we could get to 10 businesses to launch the scheme.

Caroline Edmunds explained about the up-coming 'Newbury in Bloom' and reminded the group that hanging baskets can be purchased from the Town Council.

Meeting closed at 12:20

Next meeting: Tuesday 4th April 2016