

TDCC Business Meeting

Date: 4th December 2017

Location: Tavistock Room, The Bedford Hotel, Tavistock

In Attendance

Committee Members

Chairman, Mike Harper (MH)

Secretary, Richard Cosgrave (RLC)

Members

Kate Royston

Richard Searight

Visitors

Niel Jory – Business Information Point (and WDBC Councillor)

Tavistock Times

Apologies

MH gave a summary of the of the committee meeting that had just ended and as each point was discussed conversation enjoined.

MH had attended the Car Parking Strategy Group at West Devon Borough Council (WDBC)

Appears WDBC is a planning to use the car parks as cash-cow to make up a substantial part of the expected budget shortfall in 2019. Car parking currently creates a gross surplus of about £650, 000. Seems that a figure of £3 per day is being mooted.

Concerns were expressed that the visitors market (who TDCC feel seem to constitute the majority of the Bedford Car Park users) may be more elastic than WDBC think.

Review of Dickensian Evening

TDCC gave out 1000 bags. Town was heaving and RLC guessed at 15000 in attendance.

General feeling was that the town looked great and was full. It was noted that once again there were suggestions on Facebook about pedestrianisation of West Street and this tie they weren't being shouted down. Many small towns have done it and the effect is usually positive e.g. Rock.

A quick diversion was made to discuss ways to attract foot traffic into various parts of town including things like Amazon Lockers (there is currently one in Morrisons). The town could exploit the convenience of such devices to attract foot traffic to the centre of town.

Members attending were given a few moments to impart any news they wished to share including:

Richard Searight reported that OkeRail trail service to Exeter is now due to launch in late 2018 and RS provided a useful scale for thinking about the benefit of small projects -the cost of re-instating

Okehampton to Exeter is the equivalent of budgeted cost of building a small stretch of HST2 – two metres, yes a whole district reconnected to the main line for 78” worth of HST2.

AND A SUCCESS!

Kate Royston from Local Matters and Tamar Energy Community (TEC) reported that TEC had won the South West Community Energy Initiative. A case of minnows beating off bigger fish including much larger projects from Bristol and Plymouth. TEC have also been short-listed for their work with Tesco's.

Closing comments

Next breakfast event 19th December– Book now

Next Business Meeting – Monday 8th January