



**Minutes of Wem Economic Forum Meeting  
Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, Wem  
20 September 2018 at 5pm**

**Present:** Wem Rural Parish Councillor Tim Wilton-Morgan (Chair), Wem Town Councillor Rosemary Dodd, Viv Edgar (Dementia Friendly Wem), Wem Town Councillor Connie Granger, Wem Rural Parish Councillor Peter Marsh, Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings, Wem Town Councillor Edward Towers, Wem Civic Society representative Oliver Richardson, and Safer Roads Wem representative Sue Griffiths

**In attendance:** Wem Rural Parish Council Clerk Carole Warner (Secretary)

**19/18 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

**20/18 Apologies**

Rachel Hargreaves (No 49), Wem Town Hall representative Sarah Zacharek, Denise Morgan (Soul Bird) and Wem Town Council Clerk Penny O'Hagan.

**21/18 Notes of Meeting held on 30 May 2018**

The notes were agreed.

**22/18 Expenditure Voting Members** - to consider 2 appointments from Local Businesses (agriculture and hospitality sectors)

Wem Rural Parish Councillor Peter Marsh was appointed to represent the agricultural sector.

**23/18 Traffic Working Group**

Cllr Edward Towers gave an overview of the progress made over the summer months which had resulted in Wem Town putting forward recommendations to Shropshire Council. Maps of the existing and proposed directional signs for Wem Industrial Estate were reviewed and approximate cost of £2,000 installed was noted. Cllr Towers advised the signs and costs were to be discussed at the Town Council and Parish Council meetings over the next two weeks. It was agreed the Working Group should meet again soon afterwards.

Discussion took place on the one-way system currently being operated around the town due to the Saulton Road bridge repairs. It was now working smoothly with, generally, good responses. Cllr Mellings suggested it be requested to keep the system in place once the bridge was repaired for a short period of time to test it under full traffic flows. This was agreed by all present.

It was agreed the Working Group should review Shropshire Council Local Transport Plan (version 4) and respond, if appropriate, on behalf of WEF.

**24/18 Emergency Plan Working Group**

Cllr Mellings advised that good progress was being made with two documents: a high level emergency planning document and the Plan itself. It was hoped that the documents would be presented to the Town and Parish Council in October and November, as the Councils would be the official owners of the Plan, for approval in principal. Once approved in principal the Plan and public facing documents would be progressed to completion.



### **25/18 Review Markets Working Group**

Sarah Zacharek had submitted the following report:

I can confirm that the sails and the banners have been done and displayed. We trialled the later opening times, but it did not work and there was not any uptake by customers, so the traders soon reverted back to the normal times. The Christmas Craft Fair is fully booked with a waiting list and is taking place at Wem Town Hall and the Church Hall only this year.

It was suggested that to spread out the stalls in the Town Hall and reduce the waiting lists, additional venues be considered eg the Senior Club and Wem Baptist Church.

### **26/18 Dementia Friendly Wem (DFW)**

Viv Edgar thanked WEF for the £100 already donated to promoting this project. It had enabled 100 information packs to be made up and over 75 packs had already been distributed. To become a supporter a business /organisation had to attend a Dementia Friendly Session. Four sessions were initially planned during September and October. The first session had attracted 25 attendees.

Currently there were 11 Supporters in Wem. Viv explained the sessions were run under the Dementia Action Alliance guidelines. She advised Rotary had donated funds for 2 pop-up banners. Viv asked whether the Forum would fund additional packs. Cllr Mellings advised he would organise some of the printing of documents. It was agreed the Secretary and Viv would agree volumes of leaflets and flyers for consideration by Expenditure Voting Members. Cllr Rosemary Dodd thanked Viv for her hard work in getting the project to this stage.

General discussion took place on other Dementia Friendly events already taking place in the town.

### **27/18 Wem Independent Traders**

In the absence of Denise Morgan, the Secretary outlined the key points of Mrs Morgan's ideas and that it was hoped a loyalty scheme could be set up. General discussion took place on the proposal, loyalty schemes and the state of the High Street. It was agreed that Cllr Connie Granger would contact Mrs Morgan and put together a proposal for consideration at the next meeting. It was agreed that the High Street would be a topic to discuss at the next meeting, a possible consultation on what residents/businesses needed/wanted could be considered.

### **28/18 WEF Promotion**

The Secretary suggested that now projects were progressing there was an opportunity to promote successes and attract more attendees to the meetings. It was suggested articles in the Wemian and also supporting 'Welcome To Wem'. A website could also be set up rather than rely on the Town and Parish Council websites. The Secretary would forward costs to the Expenditure Voting Members.

### **29/18 Any other business**

Oliver Richardson reminded attendees of the Wem Harvest Market to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> September. He explained the collection of apples which having been made into non-alcoholic scrumpy raised funds for distribution to charities.

Cllr Mellings reminded attendees of the Gym opening at the Swimming Pool also on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Richardson advised it was hoped that the Victoria County History Group would publish their book on Wem by Christmas. He also advised that a book on Captain Harry Strong was to be published.

Cllr Towers advised another book called 'The Sweet Pea Man' and had been launched on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 after many years of research and is written by Graham Martin. Copies can be bought through either the Eckford Sweet Pea Society in Wem or Wem Book Shop.



WEMECONOMICFORUM

General discussion took place on the state of the White Horse and frustration was expressed with the lack of action partly due to the ownership now being with the Crown Estates.

**30/18 Date, venue and time of next meeting:  
Thursday 6 December 2018, Roden Suite at 5pm**