



WEM ECONOMIC FORUM

**Minutes of Wem Economic Forum Meeting
Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, Wem
6 February 2019 at 4.30pm**

Present: Wem Rural Parish Councillor Tim Wilton-Morgan (Chair), Peter Broomhall (Wem Rural Parish Council) Viv Edgar (Dementia Friendly Wem), Geoff Glover (Wem Rural Parish Council), Sue Griffiths (Safer Roads Wem) Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings, Wem Town Councillor Edward Towers, Oliver Richardson (Wem Civic Society) and Sarah Zacharek (Wem Town Hall)

In attendance: Wem Rural Parish Council Clerk Carole Warner (Secretary) and Wem Town Council Clerk Penny O'Hagan.

01/19 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

02/19 Apologies

Wem Town Councillor Connie Granger and Simon Thornley (Midcounties Coop Society)

03/19 Minutes of Meeting held on 6 December 2018

The minutes were agreed.

04/19 Expenditure Voting Members - to consider 1 appointment from Local Businesses (hospitality sector)

Carried forward

It was noted that Fiona Ford had resigned as Expenditure Voting Member for Local Businesses (general business sector).

05/19 Finances

a. Update Request for additional funding

It was advised that the Town and Parish Councils had each made a provision of £1,000 in their budgets for 2019/20. Justification for drawing on the funds would be made at the time of request.

06/19 Working Groups – update

a. Traffic

Cllr Towers reported that provision for funding of the Drawwell Lane scheme experimental order had been placed in the Town Council's Budget. Penny O'Hagan advised Town Councillors wanted to discuss the principle of funding this type of highways infrastructure in more detail at a later date. A Community Infrastructure Levy application would be submitted to fund the experimental order.

b. Emergency Plan

Cllr Mellings reported that the first high level document was due to be signed off after this meeting. The project was still on course to launch in the Spring.

c. Review Markets

Sarah Zacharek reported that the market traders' promotion of the markets needed reviewing. It was suggested a meeting of the Working Group should be held.

d. Dementia Friendly Wem

Viv Edgar advised the Dementia Action Alliance had been successful in being one of the Midcounties Coop charity partners. The 'Hall of Fame' event currently being held in the Town Hall was proving to



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be successful. Viv had also been on Shropshire Radio. Plans for more public awareness sessions were being made.

07/19 New Projects

a. The 'High Street' including Wem Independent Traders

General discussion took place and it was agreed that Penny O'Hagan, Sarah Zacharek and Carole Warner would meet to progress:

How to collect the necessary base line data, so to allow assessing impact of any initiatives, and
To suggest a promotion to High Street traders.

b. Tourism

General discussion took place about the information and projects already identified/produced. It was agreed Penny O'Hagan, Sarah Zacharek and Carole Warner would meet to identify particular projects.

08/19 WEF Promotion

The Secretary advised flyers had been printed.

09/19 Other matters of interest

a. Additional cash machines

It was agreed to write to Cardtronics United Kingdom which is the contractor responsible for the machine.

b. The White Horse

Cllr Chris Mellings reported that Shropshire Council had been looking to purchase the property, but a previous owner had now come forward. No other information was available.

c. Christmas Festival

Penny O'Hagan suggested some changes that could be of benefit to the organising Committee and retailers.

d. Sweet Pea Show

It was noted that 2019 would be the last year the Committee would be organising. It was agreed WEF should talk to the Committee.

10/19 Date, venue and time of next meeting:

Tuesday 9 April 2019, Roden Suite at 4pm