

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

6 FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Moorhouse (in the Chair), Peat, Cooke, Kinch, Hinchcliffe, Sutherland, Rowell and Mrs Grady (from item 69.); Ms J. Whittaker (The Bowes Museum) and Mr M. Hanby (Business Guild);

Also in attendance: Councillor Blissett (until item 70); one member of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk) and Mrs Woodward (Deputy Clerk).

67. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mr R. Welsby (The Bowes Museum).

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 17(b)/May/16 refers), Members were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members were reminded that a declaration could be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion. Councillor Rowell declared an interest in respect of item 69.

69. ALIVE AFTER 5 IN BARNEY – PRESENTATION

Councillor Mrs Moorhouse explained that Councillor Rowell had declared an interest and was presenting as a town trader, not as a town councillor. Before any debate and vote took place, Councillor Rowell would be asked to withdraw.

Councillor Kinch queried the legality of the presentation under the town council's Standing Order 9. The Clerk clarified that this was a presentation, not a motion and that officers had made the recommendation that the town council offers its support (if any) under Standing Order 10a (i).

Emma Rowell, a trader in the town, explained that the aim of the project 'Alive After 5 in Barney', was to encourage and boost the night time economy; to co-ordinate existing events and activities; to encourage new acts, performers and venues; and to assist struggling businesses in the town, particularly The Bank, during Winter Months. This was a national initiative that could work well in the town. An Easter Fest was proposed on 16 and 17 April to launch the project. Members felt that the project sounded like an initiative for the Business Guild to lead and promote.

Resolved – That the town council offers its support to 'Alive After 5 in Barney', excluding financial and staff support, but assisting with its promotion.

70. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 28 NOVEMBER 2016 – MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

71. POPPY APPEAL

Pursuant to Minute 61 (i)/Nov/16, an application was made to Durham County Council for a Street Collection Permit in Barnard Castle on Friday 23 up to and including Sunday 25 June 2017 for the Royal British Legion.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

72. MAYORAL EVENTS

It was reported that the Town Mayor was hosting a charity evening of 'Fun & Games' in aid of the Mayor's Charity on Wednesday 22 February 2017 at Barnard Castle Cricket Club. Tickets were £10 per person and were available from the office.

A mayoral end of term event was also to be hosted on Friday 21 April 2017. Further details would be available at the next meeting.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

73. 2016/17 COMMUNITY EVENTS

(i) Christmas Lights Switch-On – Friday 2 December

The town council's annual Christmas Tree Lights switch-on event was a success. The event was supported in kind or with donations/ sponsorship by Teesdale & District Lions Club; Dickens in Teesdale; William Smith; Morrisons; YMCA; Barnard Castle Band; Darlington Building Society; Boyes; GlaxoSmithKline; BBC Tees; Catherine Yates (Storyteller); Mark Wilkes (volunteer Town Crier); Tom Deacon and Damian Buchanan (costumed characters); Bob Garton (Santa); Oliviers (loan of nativity scene); and S&A Builders Merchants.

The Snow Globe attracted much attention on Woodleigh performance area. The projected theatrical light show from Woodleigh's windows enthralled the crowds. Festive stalls, a raffle for the Mayor's Charity and storytelling in Woodleigh for younger children added to the event. Roasted chestnuts, mulled wine and seasonal treats were served by Dickens in Teesdale volunteers in Victorian dress. Costumed characters distributed chocolate coins and entertained children prior to the event. The sleigh and white trees on Woodleigh Grounds added to the festive atmosphere. Barnard Castle Band played a selection of carols at the entrance to Scar Top to herald the event. Barnard Castle Christmas Lights collected donations on the evening and The Witham were able to promote their Santa's grotto and snow globe workshops commencing the following Saturday. The grotto attracted over 100 children and balloon modelling, face painting, craft activities and refreshments in the Methodist Church Hall were well received by children and families.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That thanks be given to all those involved and those who supported the event.

74. 1940s EVENT – 23 TO 25 JUNE 2017

(i) 1940s Event Task & Finish Group – 17 January – draft notes

It was reported that an evening event on Friday 23 June was booked at TCR HUB with 'Vintage Belles'. Tickets were on sale for £10 via town council office. A raffle was to be held in aid of the Mayor's Charity. It was hoped that sponsorship could be secured for the event.

Participants were beginning to book camping/ accommodation at TCR HUB for the weekend.

Various sponsors had been approached to sponsor the Classic Coach tours booked for Sunday 25 June and first aid provision in vintage dress/ first aid station.

Northumbrian Water had agreed to look at the possibility of installing a temporary standpipe, at no cost, for water on Scar Top for those re-enactors camping in-situ over the weekend.

Businesses were being approached for support and to advertise in the event guide for the weekend.

More volunteers were needed to help during the weekend's activities and a meeting would be arranged in the near future.

It was noted that funding was available up to £10,000 for Armed Forces Day events on and around Saturday 24 June. The application deadline was 15 April.

(ii) Aviation Day – 23 June 2017

It was confirmed that detailed arrangements for this event would commence in early February.

Resolved – (a) That the draft notes and information be received; and
(b) That an application be considered for Armed Forces Day funding at the next meeting of the 1940s Task & Finish Group on 28 February.

75. 2017/18 EVENTS PROGRAMME

Members considered how the 2017/18 Events budget of £9,000 should be apportioned.

Resolved – (a) That the 2017 Christmas Lights Switch-On event be held on Friday 1 December 2017;
(b) That delegated authority to spend the approved budget for the 2017 1940s Event be given to the Clerk, in consultation with the 1940s Event Task & Finish Group; and
(c) That the 2017/18 Events budget be apportioned as follows:

Event	Expenditure (£)
The Bowes Museum 125 th Anniversary	2,000
Aviation Day	300
1940s Event	3,000
Remembrance Sunday	500
Christmas Lights Switch-On	2,500
Unallocated	700
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	9,000
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76. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE

Jane Whittaker thanked the town council for allocating £2,000 to support an event at The Bowes Museum to commemorate its 125th anniversary. The celebrations would commence 10 June and continue for a year. The town council's funding would need to be spent by 31 March 2018 and it was proposed that a working group be created to oversee arrangements.

It was reported that the Silver Swan was on loan to the Science Museum in London, but that it would return in time for Easter 2017.

An Arts Council application for funding up to 2020 had been submitted, with the outcome expected in June 2017.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

77. BUSINESS GUILD UPDATE

A meeting was held on 13 December. New officers had been appointed.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

78. BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (BCCL) UPDATE

An update was submitted from Sue Smith, Secretary, BCCL as follows:

BCCL Committee had now been involved with raising money to improve the town's festive lighting displays for two years. During that period, thanks to great support, over £25,000 had been raised and more than £20,000 had been spent.

Number one priority for Christmas 2017 was to improve the lights either side of The Bank with festoon lights and possibly a light feature at the bottom of The Bank. A proposal (subject to permission from the property owners) had been made to extend the icicles up Galgate to Marshall Street and King Street. The lights aimed to be extended in the trees along Galgate. There was also an idea to introduce some colour by decorating some of the small Christmas Trees on the front of properties with coloured lights.

To help pay for this, a Curry Night was to be held at Spice Island on 6 March. Tickets cost £20. A Flower Demonstration by Sarah Meeson of Vintage Essence was to be held on 3 April at the Cricket Club.

BCCL Committee met about every four weeks throughout the year and would welcome a couple more members to be actively involved in organising fundraising events and to help make decisions on the way forward for the town's festive lighting displays.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

79. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

Christmas Plus dismantled the icicle lights and motifs at the end of January. These would be tested and repaired as necessary. Positive feedback had been received about this year's festive lighting display. One visitor emailed to say: "I would like to say how much my husband and I enjoyed your Christmas lights. The town looked superb and we travelled from home a number of times to enjoy the lights and Christmas feel to the town. Thank you."

Mrs Sue Snowdon, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant conveyed the following message to Cllr John Blissett, Town Mayor.

"Mrs Snowdon and several guests drove through Barnard Castle on Friday evening en-route to The Bowes Museum and were really taken by the Christmas decorations in the town. Mrs Snowdon felt it was obvious that the shop owners and the Town Council had worked together to achieve the co-ordinated look which was really pleasing. Well done to all involved."

Members noted that 2017/18 was the final year of a three-year Christmas lighting contract awarded to Christmas Plus (Council Minute 55/July/15 refers).

A resolution was passed at Council meeting on 23 January that the 2017/18 Christmas Lights Budget be £5,500 (a reduction of £1,000 on this year's budget). The breakdown of known and estimated costs for 2017/18 was as follows:

Description	Expenditure (£)
Installation icicles lights	2,321.90
Dismantling icicles lights	995.10
Install/ dismantle 9x swan motifs along Galgate	382.50
Electricity usage (estimated)	500.00
Donation to The Methodist Church for Crib electricity	50.00
Parish Church Christmas tree festival & decorations	100.00
New items to increase display (incl. installation/dismantling)	1,150.50
	5,500.00

There was approximately £1,000 to be spent on new lighting, including installation, dismantling and storage costs associated with new lights. Members discussed options. Cllr Mrs Grady declared an interest and did not take part in any discussions or voting. Cllr Peat had a dispensation to talk about matters relating to Christmas lighting and contributed to discussions but took no part in voting.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That 21 sets of icicle lights be purchased utilising the £1,000 identified, including installation and dismantling costs, to extend icicle lighting up both sides of Galgate to King Street and Marshall Street.

80. TOWN MAP

A resolution was passed at Council meeting on 14 November that the remaining underspend from the 2016/17 Events budget be used to fund design and printing of a bespoke easy town map for visitors to highlight Dementia Friendly Town and Walkers are Welcome. There was approximately £176 remaining in this year's events budget. Pads of 2,000 tear off maps would cost £180 to produce. Allan Jones had designed a draft town map, which was circulated for members' comments.

Resolved – (a) That members' comments on the town map be received by 10 February; and
(b) That it be delegated to the Clerk, in conjunction with Chairman of Partnership Committee, to approve the final proof of the town map prior to printing.

81. WW1 BEACONS OF LIGHT – 11 NOVEMBER 2018

In commemoration and remembrance of the end of the First World War, a chain of 1,000 beacons would be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories at 7pm on Sunday 11 November 2018. The beacons would symbolise the 'light of hope' and town and parish councils were encouraged to take part. More than 320 town and parish councils had already confirmed involvement. Members noted that this would be on the same day as Remembrance Sunday in 2018.

Detailed co-ordination would begin in April 2017. A decision to participate was needed before the end of March 2017. The Bowes Museum was keen to be involved. It was suggested that a wood burning brazier could be made. The town's War Memorial in the grounds of The Bowes Museum was suggested as a possible location.

Resolved – That the town council participates in WW1 Beacons of Light on 11 November 2018.