



## **Note of meeting about Front Street held at Ginevras on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Present:** Cty Cllr Gordon Stewart, Doreen Elwell ( PCP), Andrew Eldridge ( Yellow) Elizabeth Evans ( EE Opticians) Cllr Tracy Gilmour ( PTC), Paul Stangroom ( PS Fine Art) Wendy Maughan, Susan Gascoigne, Liz Bright, Joan Hewit, Wendy Maughan ( all Barclays) William Thompson ( B&C Centre) Paul Murray (Fab), Pauline Edwards ( RS Knit) Iain Watt ( Co-op) Tracey Robinson ( The Emproium) Paul Robinson ( CastleIT) Cty Cllr Anne Dale. Anthony Finn ( Ginevras) George Hepburn (PCP)

**1 Welcome** Doreen welcomed everyone. She explained that the Town Council and Partnership had set up a joint working party earlier in the year including traders to look at how we could ensure continuing prosperity of Front Street.

**2 Front St 2030** George presented the working party's thoughts so far on how Front Street could adapt to changing circumstances. He explained that most of the suggestions would take time to achieve but that we needed to have plans in place to take advantage of any future opportunities. The working party's ideas are summarised in the attachment.

**3 Ideas put forward** Suggestions put forward in discussion included:

- Funding for a paid person to put ideas into action
- Redeveloping East as a community hub cum performance space
- Everyone putting hand in pocket to bring about improvements
- Trying to overcome a 'linear' high street that people pass through
- Maybe shutting off side roads?
- Building on existing events to have a bolder programme eg halloween
- More involvement with Northumberland Estates to influence their thinking on the proposed town centre development to include community services
- Also working more closing with Mr Dhillon as a significant property owner
- Having more local traders and offering short leases to start up businesses
- Barclays offering to get more involved in the community
- Accepting the Low Prudhoe development is happening and getting our act together to make sure it draws people into town.
- Having a shuttle bus from Low Prudhoe into town

- Clever parking – 40% of cars on Legion car park reported to be of commuters catching the bus into town, so case for short stay and long stay parking spaces and better signage.
- Worth trying a street market again.
- Having a live band outside the Co-op at the weekend changed the atmosphere. Worth having more events on the streets.
- Christmas lights much appreciated and could be on for longer and extended further
- Shame no events at the Castle
- We need to have more pride in Prudhoe
- Worth trying a 'shop local' scheme
- Reintroduce CCTV
- Have a shop or town 'loyalty' scheme
- "Some shop fronts are an absolute joke"
- Need feedback on shoppers experience – secret shopper scheme?
- Build on community spirit in Prudhoe – people "get behind things"

#### **4 Next steps**

- Front St 2030 presentation by town planning expert Alan Wann at PCP AGM on Tues 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in Spetchells centre. Everyone welcome.
- Visit to Stockton town centre ( commended for its regeneration) and discussion with Stockton Council staff. Half day trip. Everyone welcome. Contact George for details.

**5 Thank You** Doreen thanked everyone for their time and ideas which the working party will consider further. Also thanks to Ginevra for hosting the evening.