

Minutes of meeting of joint working party with Prudhoe Town Council on future of town centre held at Spetchells Centre on Tuesday 21 October at 7pm

Present: Cty Cllr Anne Dale, Doreen Elwell (chair), Elizabeth Evans, Cllr Tracy Gilmore, George Hepburn, Cty Cllr Gordon Stewart, William Thompson

Apologies: Paul Murray, Iain Watt

1 Minutes of meeting held on 7²²ⁿ May were agreed.

2 Matters arising :

- (i) **Alan Wann presentation:** agreed his talk was disappointing
- (ii) **20mph speed limit:** Gordon still pursuing.
- (iii) **Meeting with Richard Wearmouth:** Gordon to arrange.
- (iv) **Prudhoe Castle:** Tracy and Gordon reported difficulties in involving them.

3 Consultation with traders. Notes of the meeting with shop keepers held at Ginevras on 18th June were noted and welcomed.

3 Visit to Stockton Town Centre

George reported on achievements in regenerating the town centre which has been achieved through persistent leadership and direction over 10 years. Stockton MBC had bought up property, invested in infrastructure and run some facilities (eg a cycle hub) as loss leaders to bring in visitors. Copies of George's report are available.

4 Town Centre shopping list

A list of practical steps for the short and medium term were agreed. These were based on the previous visioning exercise and consultation and all could be achieved with modest resources. They are attached to these minutes.

Members thought that some immediate steps to brighten up Front Street and improve frontages were warranted. George will seek quotes for design advice and Tracy and Gordon agreed to look into ways of creating a fund towards costs involved which could be matched by individual traders.

5 Date of next meeting : Monday 13th January at 5.15pm



Vision:

To develop a prosperous and lively town centre that is an attractive and popular place to be both day and night

Town Centre Improvements Shopping List:

(Drawn from the visioning exercise and consultation with traders)

Short term (2 years)

(actions we can take ourselves with modest funding and resources)

- Buildings painted - brighten up frontages and painting murals
- More outside events - markets, music, and more
- Life in the 'gap' by Mcgees - Co op may be willing to sell
- 20mph speed limit - through NCC to make more shopper friendly
- Clever parking - time limits in centre and make shopping easier
- Town gateways - to mark entry into the town
- Confident town brand - to promote as shopping destination
- Childrens play area - to make family friendly
- Involve the castle in the town - for tourism potential

Long term (10 years)

- Acquire empty properties - for community purposes
- Improvements to Glade - to make it more amenable for events
- Multi purpose performance space - to build cultural identity
- Consider Pedestrianisation - to make shopping friendly
- N Estates redevelopment in town centre - hold talks at early stage
- Refurbishment of East Centre - feasibility underway by PCP
- Improve round the town transport - road trains???
- More car parking
- Bid for major events - like Tour of Britain

What about this:



Fremantle WA