

Acton Business Forum

Committee Thursday 14 August 2008

Present: Glenda Shawley (acting Chair) Nancy Duin, Tushar Joshi, Mike Morris, Matthew Stower.

1.	<u>Apologies</u> There were no apologies	
2.	<u>Minutes of the meeting on Monday 23 June 2008</u> The minutes were approved	
3.	<u>Matters arising</u> There are further corrections to be made to the ABF Terms of Reference	

4.

Action Acton Support for ABF

MM said that he had decided to retire and had given his notice to Action Acton which would take effect from the end of August 2008. He said that he had particularly enjoyed working with the Forum and the Committee and he was sorry to be leaving just as the Forum was successfully re-establishing itself. He was confident that it had a good future and fulfilled a real need.

GS thanked MM on behalf of the Committee for the work which he had done over the past year. It was largely due to him that the ABF was in such good shape. GS invited him to continue his association with ABF as a full member. MM agreed to do so.

MM said that he understood Matthew Wade would become the Action Acton officer supporting the Forum. MW had worked for Action Acton over a number of years and knew the Forum well.

5.

Acton Town Centre Development Framework

High Street Consultation

MM reported on a successful consultation last month about the Framework with High St businesses. GS commented that it was remarkable that as many as 20 High St businesses had attended. MM said that he had visited every High St trader on the day as well as writing to them. He was particularly pleased to see a good turn out by the licensed trade.

The minutes of the meeting were noted. MM drew attention to Nilam Popat of Ealing Council who said that traders must take some responsibility for improvements themselves. The Committee then discussed the question of seasonal lights or decorations.

MM to contact High St traders and see if they would contribute to lights or decorations in the High St.

Response

MM said that he had prepared a formal response to the Framework as agreed at the June meeting. The line taken was supportive of the consultants' strategy and would urge LBE to get on with implementation.

ND asked about timescale. The deadline for decisions seemed to be getting shorter. MM said LBE saw the process as an iterative dialogue. Some planning decisions were imminent and are already being informed by the Framework. There was urgency over allocation of the £1.8m seed money. Other aspects were medium to long term

6.	<p><u>Autumn Programme</u></p> <p>Peter Collier, Corporate Procurement Manager for Ealing Council will give a presentation on 22 September on 'Selling to Ealing'.</p> <p>TJ said it would be good to link this to the spending of the £1.8m. This would encourage attendance. He was sceptical about how far the Council was really interested in buying from small local businesses. His own company had responded to a number of tenders without success.</p> <p>.ND suggested that Collier should be asked to indicate in advance what they were looking for to help in marketing the event.</p> <p>There would be an autumn networking event in October. A contact of GS, Fleur Borelli? Was penciled as a 'lightning speaker'.</p> <p>Local MP Andy Slaughter will speak to the Forum on 24 November. It was agreed that this event would incorporate the AGM.</p> <p>A Christmas social would complete the autumn programme.</p>	MM
7.	<p><u>Financial Position</u></p> <p>Bank balance is currently £1,475. Membership stands at 21. MS will supply a financial statement for the AGM.</p> <p>Committee members offered to telephone potential members to persuade them to join the Forum.</p> <p>MM to supply names and numbers to ring</p>	MS All MM
8.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Thursday 16 October at 18.00 – 34 Goldsmith Road.</p> <p>MM said the Committee was welcome to meet at his house until they could find a new home.</p>	

9.	<p><u>A.O.B.</u></p> <p>TJ said he would supply a content management system for the ABF website so that it could be easily updated without the need for technical assistance.</p> <p>The Committee agreed a contribution of £100 towards the cost of refreshments at the summer networking event in July</p>	
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Minutes by Mike Morris