

Acton Business Forum

Committee Monday 23 June 18.00

Present: Glenda Shawley (acting Chair) Nancy Duin, Joseph Goonewardene, Tushar Joshi, Stephen Peach, Mike Morris, Matthew Stower, Dinah Walker

In attendance Nilam Popat Ealing Council (for item 4)

1.	<u>Apologies</u> There were no apologies	
2.	<u>Minutes of the meeting on Monday 14th April 2008</u> The minutes were approved	
3.	<u>Matters arising</u> MM apologised for not putting revised terms of reference on the main agenda. However a revised version had been circulated. A number of minor changes were agreed and a 'final final' version will be circulated with the minutes. It was noted that the document is 'terms of reference' only. The Committee agreed to keep the question of a formal constitution under review.	MM
4.	<u>Acton Town Centre Development Framework</u> Nilam Popat outlined the main elements of the consultants' report, which met with general approval. She said that the report was for consultation and was not adopted as Council policy. She pointed out that the Council had already approved £2m to be spent immediately on public realm improvements in Acton town centre. The Council urgently needed feedback on	

<p>how this money should be allocated.</p> <p>It was agreed that the business forum would facilitate sectional meetings as soon as possible, starting with a meeting of High Street Businesses. This would look specifically at the idea of grants to improve High Street shop fronts. Other meetings would be for Churchfield Road businesses and for businesses on South Acton Estate. Ealing Council were themselves organising a general consultation meeting on 1 July and businesses were encouraged to attend.</p> <p>The following were some of the comments made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Don't waste money on hanging baskets – like putting a vase of flowers in a derelict house.- Well constructed and strategically place ground level planting would be better – e.g. Crown Street. Only if properly maintained.- Key issue is to sustain the Acton Markets project after LDA funding stops in March 2009. NP pointed out that the £2m is for capital projects only. <p>Agreed that shop fronts is a high priority. Doubt about how many takers there would be if shops have to contribute their own money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Decluttering- Encouraging traders to put up Christmas lights- improved signage esp. Directions to High Street from the stations- Deep cleaning- Where possible local businesses should be involved <p>Agreed that MM will draft a general response to the Acton Town Centre Framework Plan and circulate it for comment. Members to try and read the report and let MM have any immediate reactions</p>	<p>MM</p>
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5.	<p><u>2008 programme</u></p> <p>The following changes were agreed:</p> <p>There should be a regular monthly meeting, with 'internal' events alternating with high profile speakers. 'Internal' events to have 'lightning' speakers – no more than 10 mins.</p> <p>Forum should not supply drinks – nibbles only for £50.</p>	

	<p>MM to create a rolling 12 month forward programme</p> <p>Ideas:</p> <p>No August meeting</p> <p>Sept: procurement Ealing Council speaker TBA</p> <p>Oct: Speed networking + AGM</p> <p>Nov: Andy Slaughter (local MP)</p> <p>December: Christmas party?</p> <p>January: Cleaning/Rubbish disposal Ealing Council speaker TBA</p> <p>February: Smarten up your IT: Tushar Joshi</p>	MM
6.	<p><u>Membership</u></p> <p>MM has written to everyone who attended an event since November. Membership now up to 20. A further drive will happen once the auto payment system is 'live'</p> <p>The Committee gave a warm welcome to two new members: Tushar Joshi from Turtle Networks and Joseph Goonewardene from AI International Travel.</p> <p>MM said he was hoping to strengthen the committee further.</p>	MM
7.	<p><u>Website</u></p> <p>The membership payment by credit card is about to go live.</p> <p>ND asked that she should be given advance notice of new events etc so they can be put on the website before members generally are informed.</p> <p>Need to make process of updating the website less cumbersome. Many changes can be made directly without involving Annie Pennington</p>	<p>ND</p> <p>ND/TJ</p>
8.	<p><u>Financial Position</u></p> <p>Bank balance is currently £1,300</p>	
9.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p>	

	Thursday 14 August at 18.00 – 34 Goldsmith Road	
10.	<u>A.O.B.</u> There was no other business	

Minutes by Mike Morris