



BISHOP AUCKLAND  
TOWN TEAM

**BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN TEAM  
Town Team Events Sub-Group**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

The Park Head County Hotel, New Coundon  
Bishop Auckland

**Meeting Minutes**

**Those present:**

Alan Anderson, Clive Auld (Chair), Rob Berry, Nick Brown, Lee Brownson, Nigel Bryson, Gillian Campbell, Clare Davison, Maureen Davison, Claire Gibbons, Jennifer Hare, Peter Heslop, Callum Howard and Hazel Kennedy.

Before the meeting formally opened, Clive thanked the Team for their contribution to Bishop Celebrates Together, held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. The event had been a huge success and attracted over 3,000 people.

**1. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The minutes were not available to be reviewed at our next meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

None.

**4. Bishop Celebrates Together – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Nigel reported on two complaints that had been raised in relation to the Bishop Celebrates Together publicity. A social media post had criticised Charlie's fruit and veg stall not being on our leaflet. Clive had spoken to Charlie and he said there was no problem.

A second issue had been raised by Raj at the No1 Champagne Bar that implied favouritism had been shown to the Merry Monk and he hadn't been invited to advertise in the event programme. Lee had spoken to the staff and asked Raj to be informed and invited for acts, sponsorship/ advertising had been put on social media in advance. Nigel would write to Raj formally and if he had any further concerns, Nigel and Clive would be willing to meet with him.

The key points from the event were:

- After 7 days, all the posts on the Town Team Facebook relating to the event had reached 91,000 people. This was an extraordinary result.
- Around 3,000 people attended the event over the day.
- 1,112 people visited the Auckland Tower.

- Only two traders reported that their expectations on footfall were lower than anticipated – Noshbox and Coffee-to-Go. All other traders were happy with their sales.
- All the regular Market Traders reported higher sales than a normal Market day: Thursday or Saturday.
- The Fifteas Vintage Tearoom reported that 320 people went through during the Saturday, significantly more than a usual Saturday.
- The programme of entertainment – more acts with shorter performance times – appeared to work well.
- Nigel would formally ask the traders for feedback.
- Two children fell down the stairs of the Purple Bus. There were no significant injuries but it did underlie that – in future – AYCC need to provide supervision when the bus is in use.
- A common comment was that the atmosphere all day was good – the sun being out was a major help!
- The face painter was busy all day and Nigel and Clive had to close the queue off to allow the face painter to leave!!

Overall the Group were pleased with how the day had been organised and the feedback had been very positive.

## **5. Monster Saturday – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

In reviewing progress on organising the event, the following points were made:

- The Newgate Centre and the ex-Shoe Zone retail area would be available.
- The 'Flash' magic act would be performed between 11.30am and 12.30am.
- Ian Jay would perform from 1.30pm till 2.30pm.
- The face painter been booked: 10.30am till 2.30pm.
- Spectrum agreed to perform on the day and requested if they can collect donations, which was agreed.
- Lee briefed the Group on what would be put onto the promotional leaflet and get it to print.

## **6. Advent Windows**

Alan confirmed that 24 shops had been identified to link up with schools and other organisations involved with the project. Storytellers had already gone into some of the schools.

Gillian confirmed that the AAP grant form from Cllr Tanya Tucker had been submitted. The window cover needed to be made and Innovations had a contact that may be able to build the framework. Hazel would investigate this possibility.

There was some initial discussion about the leaflet that will be promoting the Christmas events, which includes the three Santa Clause days. BASE had indicated that they would like to have a Santa's Grotto and it was agreed that Nigel approach them to confirm this. The other two Saturdays would be in the Newgate Centre.

## 7. Any other business

**Banners:** Clive informed the Group that the Kynren Banners would be taken down over the next fortnight.

**Sandra Welch Dancers:** Clive had been given some complementary tickets for a performance in Darlington Hippodrome that included the Sandra Welch Dancers. Unfortunately, no one could take the opportunity to attend.

**Auckland Tower:** The Group were reminded that the official opening of the Auckland Tower was on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Clive would be involved with the opening ceremony. Members of the Town Team would be invited to pre-view events the week before.

**Tombola Signs:** Maureen presented a two-signs that could be used to promote the Tombola when we had one. These were clear, and it was agreed that we should use them for the Tombola on Monster Saturday.

**Bishop the Boar – Football Club:** The Group had been approached by Bishop Auckland Football Club to use Bishop the Boar at the next home match. This provoked a comprehensive discussion and a concern that it may be a substitute mascot for the club. It was agreed that we charge £50.00 for the hire of the Boar; Callum agreed to be in the Boar costume; and we give the name of the manufacturer to the club, if they are looking to have their own mascot.

The Boar was the Town Mascot and we needed to retain it for this purpose. We could evaluate its use at the Football matches following the next match.

**Music Festival:** The Merry Monk were proposing to hold a Music Fest in the Town. It was agreed that Christian Burns from the Merry Monk be invited to our next meeting to discuss the plans.

**Northern Heartlands:** Gillian highlighted the Northern Heartlands initiative which funds arts and culture projects in the Community. She gave Ulverston Lantern Festival as an idea we may be able to submit to Northern Heartlands for funding. The initiative was interesting and the Group agreed to discuss this further at our next meeting.

**Jim Tait:** Clive discussed how Jim could help provide entertainment and it was agreed we invite him to a future meeting.

## 8. Date of next meeting

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Park Head Hotel, starting at 5.15pm.

**ACTION FROM TOWN TEAM EVENTS MEETING: 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

<b>No</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When by</b>
<b>1</b>	Write to Raj Devgan	Nigel	10:10:2018
<b>2</b>	Write to traders for feedback on AB Together	Nigel	11:10:2018
<b>3</b>	Monster Saturday Promotional leaflet	Lee	13:10:2018
<b>4</b>	Window cover for Advent Windows	Hazel	18:10:2018
<b>5</b>	BASE – first Christmas Saturday Santa Clause	Nigel	11:10:2018
<b>6</b>	Invite Christian Burns to next meeting	Clive	11:10:2018