

Otley Chamber of Trade AGM 5th March 2022

In attendance

Simon Reybould	Print Crew
Les Winder	Cranberry café
Trevor Backhouse	Patisserie Viennoise
Pippa Ridley	Etempa
Penny Fardel	Hollings Crowe
Peter Heald MBE	Lunds of otley
Colin Campbell	LCC & OTC
Tim Whitely	Chevin Logistics
Alan Sowden	Sowdens
Sally Croft	ISCA
Elizabeth Fox	Otley RUFC
Richard Pulleyn	OTP
Andrew Howarth	Otley 2030
Leonie Sharpe	Otley Lido
Tom Hatley	Christopher Little & Co.
Steph Lee	OTP
David Eadon	Lesley Brays
Helen Kaye	Lesley Brays
Lesley Noble	Hug on a tray
Elaine Shuttleworth	Hug on a tray
Victoria Oldham	Cranbourne Accountant
David Robson	Otley Courthouse
Richard Huges	OTC
Tony Middlemiss	Middlemiss butchers

Michael Holroyd	Aire Valley Floorings
Christophe	Bowman Fireplaces
Alison Barton	Otley Hire centre
Jane Tompkinson	Otley Hire centre
Diane Almond	Ivy House Botanicals & Well being
Nicola James	Wharfedale Tutors

Penny Fardel presented the accounts. There was only one question relating to the funding of a social event and why the event was paid for from the chamber funds. Simon Reybould addressed the question, it was a social event where we invited all the past Presidents as a thank you for all the work which they had done.

Presidents remarks

Simon addressed the issue of the Zoom meetings during the pandemic and how difficult it was to have a good useful meeting by zoom. He was pleased that we were able to support the Lido appeal and hoped that the Lido will attract more visitors and residents to use the Lido.

Face book seemed to be fairly popular but could be better to promote what we are doing.

Rhona Smith (Honorary Member) will re-join the Executive group but we are inviting anyone else to be part of the Executive group. If anyone feels able to join our working group, to make an impact and feels they would like to keep Otley on the map. Then please contact us.

The Business meeting

Peter Heald MBE addressed the issues around Ashfield . In 2018 the planning application was given the go ahead for a 60 room care home specialising in dementia. There would possibly be a new food retailer and car parking on three levels, this would be on the land behind Patisserie Viennoise on Westgate. The old mill on Ashfield will be developed into Offices.

It would however appear that there will no longer be provisions for a car park. The main concerns are that the developers are trying not to comply with the planning for the highway traffic lights on Westgate.

Colin Campbell said that the planning on Ashfield was complex but no development should be detrimental to existing highways. The access to Ashfield are at the moment confidential but ongoing.

Peter Heald had concerns for about the amount of parking which would be lost at the back of the old Milligans yard.

Nicola James raised the question about the trees being cleared by Westgate but this was not an issue as this was really scrub land.

There was much discussion regarding the Ashfield area.

East of Otley

Plans for this area have been on going for the last 30years and very badly thought out. The plans have been poorly thought out and the design was not up to standard. The plans are on pause. There are now new consultants looking into this ongoing project. "Homes England" feel that houses will be built. Consideration has to be given to Green spaces, roads, schools and the environment. LCC is revising the planning regulations to consider better build for passive heating in homes.

Victorian fayre.

Steph lee said that it will survive and after consulting groups in Otley, she is pleased with the support and the Fayre will go ahead this year.

Planning.

Various issues were addressed, including no more expansion of the airport.

The enforcement of illegal signs and frontages of premisses. This can be complex to enforce.

Parking on pavements is an ongoing problem with not much being done to stop the problem. One suggestion was to erect bollards on the pavements.

OTC have appointed a company to look at Street vision and how the town can be improved. The pedestrianisation of Kirkgate was addressed. Disabled people have problems parking.

Alan Sowden and others would like to know why the Planters on Kirkgate are stopping parking and why they have been placed there without consultation.

Alan aske what the view is of the Chamber of trade.

In April, there will be a consultation with all groups regarding improving the town centre. It is possible there will be a meeting with all concerned on the 29th march.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding parking on Kirkgate and the Market Square.

Footfall

Although a question about the lack of footfall in the town centre was given to the Chamber prior to the meeting, when it was addressed at the meeting for discussion, very little was said regarding this issue. Although, it was said that Otley is no different to any other town, village, shopping centre or city. If anything, Otley doesn't suffer like some shopping areas. If anything, we maybe able to focus more on street buskers and entertainers. It was suggested about a Scarecrow festival in Otley.

Otley Show

If any trader would like a space in the Chamber of Trade marquee, please contact us via our online enquiry.

The Otley Show will take place on 21st May 2022.

Otley Coffee Festival

A reminder that the Otley Coffee Festival will take place on 30th April 2022 at the Parish Church.

Ukraine Appeal

Organised by local Otley businesses, if anyone would like to donation towards a lorry heading out to Ukraine with nappies, wipes, formula and other items to help the children of Ukraine, please go to

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alex-wright-470?utm_term=gKY54nDBe