

BAMPTON BUSINESS GROUP

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday 25th January 2012, Chair: Lucie Moore

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1. **Attendance approx 30.** Also Andrea Ormsby from **BBC Spotlight** recording footage for use in next Bampton feature.
2. Review of **Christmas Afternoon 2011.** The general consensus was that numbers were low/sporadic during the afternoon, although numbers in the latter part of the event tying in with the children singing, the Bampton Players play and the lighting of the tree were very good. The Rotary reported record collection from Santa Grotto in Blackberries. The previous years' evening events had more atmosphere. It was agreed that the event should be moved back to a Friday evening event. (I suggest perhaps running from 5.00-8pm with the gathering at the Tree and lighting and carols etc at the beginning of the event.) An application has been submitted to BTC from the Charter Fair Tolls to pay for effective signage for future Christmas events.
3. Lottery Bid for **Heritage & Visitor Centre** – The planned premises were taken by Lucy Lou's, and search for other suitable and cheap premises failed – mainly due to cost of rent. An approach was made to Bampton Church being at the heart of Bampton's heritage and a Grade 1 listed building. The Church council have just agreed that we can, in principle, set up our centre within rear of the church building. The Centre would contribute towards heating costs of the church. This means that the Church can stay open to visitors much longer than at present. Feedback from those present, suggested that the advantages to all were apparent. The project also includes the development of the Stage area at the bottom of Castle Street with information boards etc. [Anyone interested in becoming more involved with the planning of this project should contact Katrina through \[bbg@btinternet.com\]\(mailto:bbg@btinternet.com\)](#)
4. **Directory** Second Edition – Bampton and most villages have now had delivery of the new directory thanks to BBG volunteers. Dulverton households have also received copies. There are a few outstanding areas – [please volunteer ASAP if you can spare a little time](#) in the interests of all. Anyone requiring copies of the Directory can collect them from the Toucan where they are stored. All businesses were asked to hand them out to customers.
5. **White Horse** – Katrina reported that MDDC Conservation Officer was now in communication with the owners, who are preparing a list of works to be carried out in the near future.
6. **Charter Fair.** – Fair Tolly Sherie Webber gave an informative presentation on the fair and the history behind the tolls. She stated that efforts were made to restrict the type of stalls (eg. fast food) in consideration of existing Bampton businesses. The current arrangement is that resident businesses pay the equivalent in fair tolls, being £3 per foot, plus each is asked for a minimum of £50 sponsorship towards the cost of street entertainment, music and dancers. These two costs are then combined. It was agreed that the fair should be supported but it was also suggested that smaller businesses should pay a reduced rate of toll. (a written request has now been made). We also suggested that a smaller size of ad be made available to businesses as the current minimum of £50 was too expensive for many, albeit they might like to support the fair by placing an ad in the

Programme. Sherie reported that the net proceeds of the 2011 Fair were approx £2400 which has been split between the Rotary and BTC for use for local causes.

7. **Parking** – Lucie reported that BTC are holding a Public meeting to discuss parking in Feb but that at this time, BTC are not considering further use of double yellow lines around the town, which has been heavily rumoured. Forms and Collection Boxes have been placed in the Post Office and Costcutter, asking for comments. It was the unanimous feeling of all present at the meeting that the introduction of any parking restrictions would be detrimental to the town and its businesses. Brook Street traders commented on the importance of customers being able to stop (and double park) outside their premises. This also served to reduce speeds. BTC members present were asked to find out what prompts the Parking Attendant to attend our town when he is unwelcome!
8. **Farmers Market.** Katrina reported having been approached by someone involved in Farmers markets elsewhere, asking if Bampton would like such an event. There were mixed feelings from those in attendance. It was generally accepted that although it might bring more people into the town, it would have a detrimental effect on parking, which is already difficult. John Westcott also expressed concern that the stall holders would not be local. Katrina reported having spoken to the head of Torrington Town Traders where there had been initial resistance to the introduction of 3 markets last year but that they had proved beneficial to all, attracting people from out of the area. No decision to move forward or abandon such a project in Bampton was reached. [Further comments please to bbg@btinternet.com](mailto:bbg@btinternet.com) or [send a tweet](#).
9. **Open Farms Day.** John Westcott suggested that it might be possible to hold a one-off farmer's based event on Station Road Car Park, making use of the tents potentially to be erected there for Jubilee celebrations. He agreed to consult with the Young Farmers and other contacts to see if this could be organised.
10. **Internet Speeds.** Although a few members reported dissatisfaction with internet speeds in the area, the majority thought it was adequate if not good. Nick Rapson from Rane's PC's has investigated it, and there are some trials underway around the area but nothing concrete to report.
11. **Twitter Workshop** – Pete Cullen, who now runs the Bampton Biz Twitter site, has offered to hold a twitter workshop for all. This idea was met with enthusiasm as many are still struggling to get to grips with it. It was agreed that a twitter workshop will be arranged to take place on a Monday evening inside the Toucan where there is free wi-fi. Members can bring their phones/laptops and we can all tweet together with hands-on help from Pete. Details to follow.

[Fifteen stayed on after the meeting for a tasty Fish & Chip Supper, supplied by the Bampton Fish Bar – our thanks to Lance and Vanessa](#)

[Any views, comments, suggestions always welcome.....](#)

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