

Hednesford Traders Association 2011			
19/03/2013		Start Time: 18:00	Venue: Hednesford Soldiers Club
Meeting called by		Hednesford Traders' Association 2011	
Chair		David Greatrix	
Note taker		Amy Jones	
Attendees		Pat and Denis O'Gara – International Aid Trust Kieran and Gary Dorrington– Gnarly Cycles John – B&M Shaun Kerrigan – Business Crime Prevention Initiative Simon Orme – SOS Andy & Tracie Wood - Woody's Music Bar Deb Bettely - Coral Maxine Akins Daryl Kenny, Emma Beady + PCSO – Police Louise McHugh – Tesco Viki – Beauty by Viki Hibbs Jim Heseltine - Hednesford Soldiers Club David O'Connor – Ind. Financial Consultants.	
1. Apologies			
Stef Cunningham – Treasurer HTA2011 / Kitchen Cupboard			
2. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting			
Discussion		Minutes Approved.	
3. Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford Business Crime Reduction Partnership Presentation			
Discussion		<p>Members of this partnership are given access to a hub of information that has been put together by other users and the police. They are provided with pictures of unwanted and excluded persons. This information is accessible via email and the internet. Users log all incidents that happen within the town and the information is then shared with all members. There is an added option of a radio link that runs alongside this scheme to enhance its effectiveness. This will be linked with the local CCTV operators and with all other radio users in the town. The radios will enable traders to communicate with each other to prevent trouble spreading. Any trouble makers can then be given civil exclusions from the town. Reporting offences in this way can help to support arrests and sentencing of offenders, by showing the effect they have on the town and how many times they are offending/causing trouble.</p> <p>The cost of membership is £50 per business per annum, with the radio hire at an additional £8 per week.</p> <p>Hednesford will need 4/5 radios placed evenly throughout the town to make it effective. The radios will be linked to Cannock and Rugeley so we will get prior warning of any traveling criminals that may be heading our way. If they are forced out of Cannock or Rugeley they are likely to head to us as a 'soft touch' unless we take action and show the trouble makers that they are not welcome.</p> <p>The system has proved very effective in Stoke. The traders use it successfully to exchange information and target certain groups and problems.</p> <p>There is a lot of trouble at night within the town, as well as in the day. There is a poor turnout of night time traders at these meetings. Only Woody's and the Soldiers are present. Ideally The Hen House and the Restaurants, and some of the off licenses could do with attending these meetings to discuss night time problems as the day traders are not fully aware of the problems.</p> <p>If Section 106 funding can be used to cover this scheme for the first 12 months, we can show whether it is a viable project for traders to take on.</p> <p>It will be good PR for Tesco and Aldi to take part in this scheme to help the existing traders within the town.</p>	

minutes

Conclusion	<p>Some traders think this is a good idea and are interested in trialing the scheme.</p> <p>David Greatrix will consult Glen Watson about the possibility of using section 106 funding to get the scheme up and running for the first 12 months.</p>
4. Drugs and Crime Situation In Market Street	
Discussion	<p>There is an increase in drug taking/dealing in the town. It can be seen from a number of businesses and is extremely bad for business. Locations mentioned included the alley opposite Jaipur, Woody's car-park and the wasteland on Cardigan Place. The police advised to call 101 every time this is observed.</p> <p>Traders expressed feelings of poor relations between businesses and the police. It was suggested that if police were to pop into local businesses on a regular basis for a quick chat it would increase trust in the police, build relationships between the police and traders and also make complaints less traceable. It was also suggested that the police could leave a marked car at random points in the town throughout the day to act as a deterrent.</p> <p>IAT had a spate of abusive phone calls and has since had daily visits from the police. This has put her staff's minds at rest and made them feel safer. She agrees that the police should visit all shops regularly.</p> <p>John @ B&M suggested a scheme where the police are made available to the public in a set location (e.g. B&M reception area) for around an hour a month so the public can express their views and problems.</p> <p>Woody's suggested the possibility of a boxing centre to keep kids off the streets and teach them discipline. Possibly use the Salvation Army hall as a base? Woody is willing to get involved and help.</p> <p>David Wisehall suggested putting up signs in the town that state a zero tolerance attitude to drugs.</p> <p>Drug users are being administered Methadone at Lloyds pharmacy in the town. They then walk through the town just after taking the drug, often around 3pm – the time children are walking through the town on their way home from school. Can we stop Methadone being administered in the town? Can it be done at Cannock Hospital?</p>
Conclusion	<p>The Police have increased their visible and plain clothed presence within the town. They need traders to report all incidents on 101 so they can act on them. The police will have an update on the crime/drug problem in the town in 3 months.</p> <p>HTA2011 to consider approaching the press to state that the town will not tolerate the drugs problem and the traders are fully behind the police in dealing with this problem.</p>
5. Increase Footfall In Market Street	
Discussion	<p>A Market is needed in Hednesford. The Lightworks appear not to be interested in being the venue. 14 to 16 stalls can fit around the clock at the top of town. This will allow the market to run on a regular basis without the need to keep closing Market Street. We could then close Market Street occasionally with a bigger market once the initial smaller market is established. If we can prove a small market can work, we can increase the scale.</p> <p>The market that was held on the Co-op car park had repetitive stalls and didn't take off. This time it needs to be a lot better planned with a higher quality of stall.</p>

minutes

Conclusion	<p>All in favour of a market. No cost to traders, but a potential gain if it increases footfall in the town.</p> <p>Look at trialing the market once a month.</p> <p>Dan Prosser to plan the market.</p>
6. Town Partnership	
Discussion	<p>David Wisehall plans to put together a team of enthusiastic and influential people to make Hednesford as good as it can be.</p> <p>The team will look at areas such as footfall, architecture, trouble makers, etc and will be made up of traders, residents, police etc to improve the town.</p>
Conclusion	<p>David will give a presentation on this scheme at our next traders meeting.</p> <p>HTA2011 will back David in this scheme.</p>
7. Election of HTA2011 Secretary	
Discussion	<p>No nominations received.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Re-request nominations from Traders.</p>
8. Any Other Business	
Discussion	<p>Coral will be holding an official opening once they have confirmed a celebrity to do a PA. They will send flyers to all businesses once arranged.</p>
9. Meeting Close and Next Meeting Date	
Discussion	<p>The next meeting will be scheduled for the start of June. Actual date to be confirmed nearer to the time.</p>