

**PEACEHAVEN AND TELSCOMBE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP
COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL WORKING GROUP
MEETING ON MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2002, 7PM
AT THE MERIDIAN CENTRE**

Present: John Shervington – Peacehaven Angler
Patricia Wood – Peacehaven Angler
Lynette Boxall – J & L Hair and Beauty Salon
Jenny Turner – J & L Hair and Beauty Salon
Roy Goodall – Telscombe Town Council
Michael Wickham – Osteopath
Claudia Lindsay – House Project (Minutes)

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for Absence: Audrey Whitney – Federation of Small Businesses.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting:

a. John Shervington pointed out that in paragraph 5 of the last minutes, it stated that 'there were unnecessary double yellow lines on the South Coast Road' when it should in fact read 'there were double yellow lines on the South Coast Road'.

b. Roy Goodall said that he would be the temporary Chairperson for the group until such time that another member of the group takes over.

c. The minutes of the last meeting were signed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from Last Minutes:

a. At the last meeting, it was mentioned that the group hoped for a business centre where small businesses could meet to exchange information and use IT. Roy suggested asking Mary Dunmore at the House Project to see if it was possible to use the IT room at the House Project for this purpose. Claudia to report back to Roy before the next meeting.

b. Michael asked if the minutes could be numbered for easier reference.

c. Vandalism was an issue raised again. John and Patricia mentioned that the bus stop outside their shop is constantly being vandalised, with the litterbins being used to smash the glass, therefore leaving no bins as well as the bus stop out of use. They also expressed concern regarding the number of ram raids which seem to be taking place in the area, with the KEB Mobile Phone shop ram raided twice recently and the obvious potential of other shops being targeted. Roy suggested writing to Inspector Huff on behalf of the traders to find out what plans the Police had for protecting them and to ask about the Traffic Warden situation, as there doesn't seem to be a lot of Warden presence in the area. Report back at next meeting.

d. Roy reported that Poplett's had 26 units at the Bolney Industrial Estate earmarked for businesses.

4. Planning and Prioritising Future Projects:

a. Jenny brought up the subject of advertising. Perhaps using the car park on the South Coast Road, opposite the Bank to advertise local businesses along the Coast Road. Michael suggested a map with signs to the shops for easy reference for visitors to the area. A letter to Peacehaven Council is to be sent asking about advertising boards, possibly in the car park mentioned. Update at next meeting.

b. John commented on the need for renovation at the Meridian Centre. The centre is very damp and cold and the rental on shops is very expensive. He felt that the centre needed to be more resident friendly. It was also mentioned that there seems to be no advertising in the Meridian Centre for local businesses and that this could be useful for people visiting the centre to know about other shops and facilities on the Coast Road. Roy mentioned that the car park had been done, and a number of evening classes at the centre had been successful. The group felt that a letter could be written to Peacehaven Town Council to ask what plans they had for the future development/renovation of the centre and to see if advertising boards were feasible.

c. Michael expressed concern about the lack of representatives from businesses at the meetings, particularly the people working at the Meridian Centre. Roy has said that he will communicate with the Meridian Centre traders to let them know about the group and its aims to see if he can gain more members for the group. Michael also asked about the aims of the group and Roy read out a few of the 'Action Plan' objectives which were drafted in 2001. A copy of the Action Plan is to be sent to all members of the group with feedback on ideas for Aims of the Commercial and Retail Group to be talked about at the next meeting.

d. It was felt that a Directory of Local Businesses was needed for the area to target caravan sites, information centres etc. Members of the group to think about this for discussion at the next meeting.

5. Any Other Business:

a. The group felt that the amount of cars 'for sale' which are parked along the Coast Road are a problem, using up valuable parking spaces for people wanting to use the facilities in the area. Roy said that if you see any car parked in this way, take the registration number and report it to the District Council.

b. Patricia said that the grass verge cutting was becoming a problem, with the grass being cut and left. The grass then dries and blows in the doorways making a mess. John asked if a grass cuttings collection would be a solution, but Roy said that this would be too expensive and could then possibly mean higher rates for traders.

c. It was also mentioned that the electronic signs on the Bus Stops don't seem to be working very often and the cycle lane on the road to Newhaven seems to be very dangerous, with debris on the path making the ride very hazardous. This needs to be mentioned at the next Transport Working Group meeting. Also, each member of the Commercial and Retail Group is to be sent a copy of the Transport Plans for their reference.

6. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting: Monday 4th November 2002, 7pm at the Meridian Centre.