



Minutes of Planning Meeting for December 2010 Held in Todmorden Town Hall Court Room Wednesday 7th July 7pm

Important Dates

27 th November	Lights turn on – needs to be confirmed! St Mary's Dickensian Fayre
28 th November	Advent carols
2 nd December	Carols at Unitarian
4 th December	Polish Day at Town Hall?
5 th December	Messiah
12 th December	Carols at Lumbutts
17 th December	Brass Concert at Hippodrome
19 th December	Carols at Tod Town Hall
24 th December	Carols at St Marys

Lessons to be learnt from Dickensian Eve 2009

Market died last year after 6pm. To ensure that we can get stallholders again this year need to be able to promise more. Apart from the school choirs, all the entertainment was elsewhere – need to put more on there this year.

Bdz on Halifax Road stayed open and had no customers.

Jean (Crumbly Cheese) told about an event in Hebden Bridge where there was a town cryer that moved people around the town. Apparently the town cryer was found through a competition and they had so many entrants that they chose two. Jean will try to find out how this was done. It was asked if it would be possible for the Town Council to run a competition for Todmorden to have their own cryer. The councillors present, said they would take it to them and see if this could be done. If not, it may be possible to have the Hebden or Halifax Town Cryer, but this may cost money.

The market management were not happy that there were stalls on Water Street, when there were stalls available on the market. This year, only the shops on Water Street will be allowed to put stalls out. Anyone else will be charged. All stalls etc need to be on the market.

Choirs were great last year so should approach the schools to provide choirs again (Nicki – administrator for TBA- will do this). Should approach Tod Youth Choir as well. Could put a choir under the canopy next to the pet shop. This should help to link in some of the businesses on Halifax Road. The choirs on the market could be put by the market inspectors office – this would be a better location than last year.

Should approach the samba band again. (Nicki will do this).

Suggestions for this year – these are NOT definites – just ideas!!!

- Need to do something every weekend throughout December.
- Free parking worked well last year - ?repeat
- Santa's Grotto. Could have more than one. Could use empty shops / stalls on the inside market – the problem with this is that if this is organised and the shop/unit is let then there will be no grotto. Could put something in the backroom of Bdz – this would ensure that she had customers: could also put something in the Town Hall – this was investigated last year, and agreed to by the mayor at the time; could also have more temporary ones. It was suggested that Space Cadets be contacted to see if they have anything that would be suitable that they would be willing to lend. We also need to talk to Lions about Father Xmas.
- Evening market – Friday December 10th would be a good date. 8pm late enough to stay open.
- Could close the car parks and put things on there
- Close Water Street for lights switch on and late event (Libby from Gusto to organise)
- Gingerbread House competition and exhibit in Town Hall (Margareta will investigate). Town Hall has been booked to be a Polish Day. Could start the competition then, and ask the Polish society to run workshops (is there a tradition of gingerbread houses in Poland?)
- Link in with Incredible Edible Todmorden, as they are a prominent force in Todmorden and seem to be able to get press attention.
- Make sure that there are entertainers and that they are spread around the town.
- The snow machines are very effective. The ones that have been used previously were bought on our behalf by Todmorden Together. These may not be available. They will not be wanted at the market as the “flakes” could spoil foodstuffs. If we want snow machines, we need to try to find the Tod Together ones, or source new ones. They were not very reliable and took a lot of maintenance and cajoling to work
- Empty shops – could put nativity scenes or a posada in them
- Put small Christmas trees on the outside of loads of shops. Rochdale Metal Works might be able to make the brackets. Mary Clear has a contact there and will talk to him.
- Churches Together have always been very involved in Kids Fest. They are going to take the lead on this. They will try to co-ordinate it through Geoff Hunter. Aiming for the date of 11th December.
- Santa Lucia is a big European tradition for children, which usually occurs on 13th December. St Marys could hold a Santa Lucia event in church to lead into Kids Fest. Will just move the festivities to 11th December. (St Lucy comes as a young woman with lights and sweets. It is one of the few saint days observed in Scandinavia. In some forms, a procession is headed by one girl wearing a crown of candles (or lights), while others in the procession hold only a single candle each.) Margareta and Rev Owen Page to meet to discuss this.

- Need really big signage at the ends of Town – especially at Gordon Riggs (“What can you find in Tod?”) Also put banners on the brackets that have been put up for the Food Festival banners.
- Could have a food related “biggest” event – biggest Christmas pudding, for example. Hazel Bregazzi will investigate.
- Free parking – Margareta will check how this is going to happen as there the parking is now controlled by a private company.
- High School are happy to MC the Xmas Lights switch on again.
- Needs to be branded properly so that looks professional.

Funding

- There may be some money available through Calderdale, but this has not been agreed as yet – we should know more by September
- Tod Town Council will help as much as they can
- Might be able to get some funding from local businesses, eg Weir.

Advertising

- Try to get Calendar / Look North here.
- Try to get advertorials / articles in Yorkshire Life and Lancashire Life.
- It would be good to be able to advertise events in Tod News, Yorkshire Post, Halifax Courier and Burnley Papers. This would be expensive and we don't know if have any cash to play with.

Things that need resolving

Confirmation of Lights Switch on Date – we all think 20th Nov is far too early. Margareta will organise for TTC to write to Calderdale.

A date for next meeting

Chestnut brazier

Suitable name to brand everything with.

Contact Lions re Father Xmas