

Wiveliscombe Area Business Group

THE Business Group has had a productive year by helping to organise a number of initiatives that have directly helped our community.

At present, our energy is aimed at the economic aspects of the proposed '10 Parishes Centre' which will include a much needed children's centre. This will provide child-care facilities meaning that local businesses will benefit from more people, particularly women, being able to return to the workplace.

Sustainability is an essential ingredient of this project and we as a group will be looking for ways to build in revenue generation and focus on the future way that local authorities and other agencies will be delivering services in 2010 and beyond.

Many of you will be aware that there was a business fair at the Primary School recently and this was aimed at demonstrating just how much help and support there is for businesses in the area. A considerable number of people visited the event which was very successful.

The Wiveliscombe Area Website has also been comprehensively redesigned this year after discussions within the Business Group identified a need for an enhanced information resource for residents, and to attract visitors and investors into the area. The Parish Council lead the redesign to great effect.

Local businesses should take advantage of the extremely competitive advertising rates on the

website as a way of reaching new customers.

We in turn have provided financial help to the young people of the area by contributing to the skate-board park. Youth Matters, a skateboard event in Wellington and the Youth Action team of which we are founder members.

Hanging baskets were also financed and organised to enhance the street appeal of Wiveliscombe, and we produced an extremely well received leaflet on Specialist Shops and Services; this is mainly directed at visitors and is a taster for our drive on inward investment.

Tourism particularly was one of the major projects flagged up in our MCTI consultation and we are keen to move matters forward.

The Business Group holds a regular meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm in Wiveliscombe House. We realise that not all of you can make these meetings but even occasional attendance can be very worthwhile, both for you to benefit from meeting others and hearing what is being worked on, but also we hope that you will be able to contribute to some of the projects.

As the burden of organisation continues to fall on just a few of us we would always be grateful should anyone feel they could offer us some practical support in maintaining WABG by joining the working group. It doesn't take a lot of time, and really could help your business and the community.

Should you wish to get in touch please e-mail WABG@wiveliscombe.com

Footsteps on the Recreation Ground



The Phantom Digger
OVER a period of months, mysterious holes have been appearing in the grassed surface of the Rec.

Burrowing animals have not been the cause; the excavations are rectangular, and the soil and turf are left lying nearby. They need to be carefully replaced by ground staff.

The person exhibiting such crass behaviour could be held liable for criminal damage, and must be held responsible for any injuries to sports persons, and to any other users of the Rec, whose feet might get caught in one of these hollows.

Let us all keep an eye out for the vandal. He or she may be observed using a metal detector...

Summerhouse refurbishment

The Rec's summerhouse is often used by young members of the community for social purposes.

Bryn Wilson, Chair of the Rec Committee, reports that, rather than leave the shelter open to the elements, the 'windows' of the structure will, within the next few weeks, be sealed with clear polycarbonate sheets.

Further funding was in evidence when Caroline Smeaton, County Councillor, presented a cheque for £400 to Ralph Matcham representing the Wiveliscombe Recreation Ground Committee (pictured).

Additionally, visitors to this site will soon have a special board fixed to the back wall on which they will be able to exercise their artistic and writing skills.

Humorous graffiti will be welcomed (the best examples will be published in this newspaper's Flying Pussy Column); unpleasant scribbling will be treated with the contempt it deserves.

Let the summerhouse 'board' become a home of true artistry!

Thanks are due

The Recreation Ground management would like to start the New Year by acknowledging the help it received during 2005. Many local people gave valuable assistance and, though it is not possible to name them all in the space available, the Rec Committee would like them to know that their input has been greatly appreciated.

We must, however, list a few (in alphabetical order):

Chris Gadd (firework lights etc), Mike Hendy (building and general maintenance), Lester and Austin Maddock (setting up the bonfire, removing the ashes, and much else during the year), and last but not least Monroe Priscott (without whose donation of straw the bonfire might have fizzled out).

Many thanks to them, and to everyone else who supports the Recreation Ground!

Parish Council - updated economic statement for 2006

AT the January meeting of the Wiveliscombe Parish Council, an updated statement of the Council's view on the economic development in the town was considered. The following draft statement was agreed:

We, the Parish Council, recognise that the character and economic strength of the town depends upon the variety of existing businesses within and around Wiveliscombe and the employment that they generate.

● **Shops.** A good number and variety of shops and services are essential for Wiveliscombe to function as a rural centre. We will encourage new shops and discourage any change of use which causes existing shops to become private residences.

● **Ford Road Businesses.** The businesses on Ford Road are critical to the functioning of Wiveliscombe as a Working Town.

When businesses close or move away from this area

we would prefer new or local businesses to take over their premises and will object to any proposal for a change of use which might lead to piecemeal housing development in this area, as this could be prejudicial to existing businesses and would be unlikely to provide good housing.

Businesses on this site should remain aware of their ability to impact on the surrounding residential areas by noise or fumes.

● **Station Road Businesses.** While this area is in a state of flux, due to the proposed Hendy move, we await developments.

● **Taunton Road Business Park.** We look forward to work starting on the agreed site, for the benefit of local expanding businesses and incomes. We see the Business Park's development as critical to the long term economic prosperity of Wiveliscombe and the Western end of Taunton Deane.

Return to learn

ARE you looking to make a change in your life, to acquire new skills or just unsure of what to do next?

Lisa Price is the Adult Learning Advisor for Wiveliscombe and the surrounding area and holds drop-in sessions at Wiveliscombe House every Friday morning, 10am - 12pm during term-time.

She can offer advice and information on a range of topics, including local courses, job seeking advice, CV writing and to help with making career-changing decisions.

One-to-one advice sessions are informal and friendly and intended to help you build an Action Plan for the future. This service is free, impartial and confidential. Just drop in, or to make an appointment call Lisa on 07899 961577 and leave a message.

Helena Trump

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Business News

● **Empire Signs.** In August 2004 Empire Signs moved from the Fox factory complex in Wellington to Unit 2, Old Brewery Road in Wiveliscombe.

Mike McGovern, the owner, who lives in Wiveliscombe, has built up a customer base for his wide variety of signs across the whole of Somerset with an increasing number of customers nationally.

Apart from his standard sign making equipment he has invested in a Large Format Printer which can produce large printed banners and graphics for his own clients and a number of other sign makers who lack this facility.

With other new equipment he can also produce Disability & Discrimination Act, Braille and Tactile signs and is just completing a Somerset County Council order for signs for all of the Youth Centres in the County.

With comprehensive software to meet all needs, Mike is open to all who need a sign or signs whatever the design, colour or texture.

If you think Mike could help you he requests that you drop in to Unit 2, Old Brewery Road or give him a ring on 01984 629004

● **Watt to Wear.** 'Specialist Clothing for Sporting Pursuits'. This company moved to Unit 3 Old Brewery Road, Wiveliscombe, in September 2004 after over 12 years in Sussex.

With state of the art embroidery machines in-house, its speciality is the production of team, club and promotional clothing and accessories (baseball caps, umbrellas, flags, banners, towels, pens, picnic blankets, etc).

With access to over 700 different lines of stock clothing and accessories from 40 different leading brands, it provides a very comprehensive choice for its customers - sweat shirts, rugby shirts, horse wear, t-shirts, etc.

Watt to Wear also offers a made to order service offering garments and accessories that are completely unique to a client company whether shirts, polos, fleeces, sweat shirts or jackets.

The company's speciality is jackets made to a client's colours and design e.g. motor racing teams, polo teams, yacht crews, show jumping and dressage teams, etc.

Last year the company's clients came from all over the U.K. and at least twenty countries around the world. Nonetheless the owner Daniel Watt welcomes local trade, whether T shirts for a local pub's employees or something more exotic, and if you are not quite sure what you want, they have the team to help you. To find out more ring 0870 060 1555.

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