

Minutes
Meeting at Brunel House Hotel on 18th August 2009

Present	Nick Elwell, President, Fiona Flint, Sarah Allen-Stevens, Simon Tiensa, Dave Woodruff, Margaret Barker, Daphne Saunders, Seb Belardo, PC Mike Bennett, Jane Haynes
Item 1	Apologies Jo Naylor, Mike Smith, Andrew Ibbottson, Denise Palmer, Paul Brame, Judith Heathcoat, Christopher Marriott, John Morton, John Davis
Item 2	<p>Discussion with PC Mike Bennett</p> <p>Following a request from some of the retailers, Mike kindly attended this meeting to discuss the problems with young people who are gathering around the town and particularly outside Budgen's store and the Southampton Street Car Park area. Mike started by telling the meeting that there is a Patrol Plan in place and the Car Park and Budgen's are a part of the plan. This means that there are regular, high profile patrols of these areas. He asked retailers to report all incidents. David said that customers tend not to use the car park entrance in the evening and many of them are reporting that they are being verbally abused and intimidated by this group of young people. He reported that Budgen's promotion boards, banners and store entrance have all been vandalised with graffiti and stickers. Simon added that people who are not his customers are complaining to him and Nick also added that the Chamber have received various letters from residents asking what the Chamber can do about the problems that these people are causing.</p> <p>Simon continued that he has been looking at installing cameras and this could be considered for the store entrance. However, he has spoken to the District Council and they have told him that to site a camera on the public toilet building he would need to pay a rent and there would also be a cost for the electricity. The cost of a camera is £2-3,000 Mike pointed out that cameras with sound should be considered and it was felt that this would be more expensive. Daphne suggested speaking to Peter White, a local business man who may be able to help.</p> <p>Simon suggested removing the wall but felt that the cost would be high. Mike suggested that people who are on probation could do the work for minimum cost. He will speak to the Probation Service to find out if this is possible. Simon offered to provide a skip for the debris. Margaret suggested that Simon should contact Alison Blythe at the District Council as there could be some finance for the project from JET.</p> <p>Several other options were discussed and Mike will arrange for the Crime Reduction Officer to advise on CCTV, strategies, etc.</p> <p>Sarah pointed out that there is nothing for these young people to do in Faringdon and if they are moved from this area the problem will only re-occur elsewhere in the town and asked if there was something that the Chamber could do to help. If members have any ideas please send them to Jane.</p> <p>Mike finished by saying that Thames Valley Police are looking to recruit Special Constables and anyone between the ages of 18 – 60 are invited to volunteer.</p>
Item 3	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising</p> <p>Minutes from the last meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.</p>

Item 4	Membership Report No new members since last month.
Item 5	Finance report John is still away on holiday and so no report was available. At a previous meeting a question about the interest that was received on the Deposit Account. John has replied that the current interest rate is 0.05%. Interest this year will amount to £3.26 if the rate does not change
Item 6	Retail Group No report available this month
Item 7	Presidents Remarks Focus on Faringdon CIC, the trading arm of the Chamber of Commerce is now providing tourism promotion for the Vale of White Horse through the website www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk . The new Business Directory now has over 800 businesses listed and members were urged to check their entry and let Jane know of any changes that need to be made.
Item 8	Future Meeting Dates <i>Please Note Change of Date for future meetings</i> Next Meeting: Monday 14th September at 6pm at Brunel House.
Item 9	Any Other Business Faringdon Business Breakfast Club will meet on Monday 7 th September at Brunel House from 7:30am. Members are encouraged to support this network meeting. An invitation to members has been received from the Fairford & Lechlade Business Club to attend their Summer Barbecue on Friday 21 st August from 7:30pm at Lechlade Trout Fisheries. The cost is £15 and will include all food, licensed bar, Plus fly-fishing (if you would like to have a go). There will also be fireworks and live music. Members should contact Jane if they would like to go to this event. OTCN conference this year will be on Friday 11 th September from 12-3pm at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford. Anyone who would like to go along to this should contact Nick or Jane. Following this meeting, members attended the make Money from Climate Change Roadshow
	Meeting closed at 19:00pm