

Herefordshire Sustainable Food & Tourism Partnership, January 21st 2019

Present: Jenny Beard (JB, Co Chair), David Curtis (DC, Co Chair), Nick Read (NR), Andy Black (AB), Liz Lloyd (LL), Rachel Jones (RJ), Cathy Meredith (CM), Caron Johnson (CJ)

Apologies: Clare Greener

Caron was welcomed to the meeting as Cathy's successor at Herefordshire Rural Hub

Members' Updates

Herefordshire Council

- Hereford Transport Package consultation has been published.
- Roger Allonby has been appointed Head of Services for Economic Development at Herefordshire Council. It was agreed that he should be invited to the next meeting.
- Sarah Grout had become Business Engagement Executive for HWCC.

Herefordshire Rural Hub

- LEADER was on track. Herefordshire had moved from being well down the list to c16th most successful funding body in England. On paper there was a potential for a c£400k overspend and it was hoped to increase the allocation. There was no information about what would happen when LEADER ended or what rural support would apply post Brexit.
- Feedback from the PCT was that the quality of benchmarking in agriculture is generally bad.

Herefordshire TBID

A meeting with Mosaic had been arranged for later in the week.

Brightspace Foundation

- Peter Norton had started work on the Good Food for All project, funded by Sustain. A number of initiatives were likely to arise from this, such as the potential for a mobile food bank.
- NR reported that he is now half time with Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy.

Visit Herefordshire

- VH was developing a new tourism guide, to go to the printers on 13th Feb with a circulation of 60k.
- Work was continuing on the International Cider Conference to coincide with the Big Apple from 10th-13th October. They wanted to build public engagement. The Green Dragon was willing to host the event.
- 2020 was the 250th anniversary of Gilpin's voyage along the Wye and events were being planned to commemorate this.
- Matthew Alder has left VH and Marie is the temporary marketing manager.

Herefordshire Churches' Tourism Group

The group have applied for funding from the Resilient Heritage Fund (HSFTP has submitted a letter of support). The funding will support the development of a Churches Tourism Handbook and some short promotional films.

Duchy of Cornwall

- The Duchy will support the food and tourism awards in 2019.
- It is working on policies to combat rural crime.
- DC has resigned as Director of Herefordshire Community Network, but they are keen to continue to expand the network.
- The Duchy project on developing its natural capital ran into unexpected IT problems so that the mapping programme has been delayed. The project will continue.
- DC is officially on a four day week and will retire at the end of 2019.

Future proofing HSFTP

- It was agreed that we needed to consider the future development of the partnership, though much would depend on the TBID and any governance arrangements that might arise.
- NR was drafting an Annual Report which would feed into the future proofing.

Dates of future meetings

These were agreed as:

- Monday 18th March
- Monday 20th May
- Monday 22nd July
- Monday 23rd September
- Monday 18th November

All at the Duchy at 10am unless notified otherwise.