

BRENTFORD Chamber of Commerce

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Minutes of the General Meeting of the Brentford Chamber of Commerce held on 16th February 2010 at Brentford Football Club Theme: Sports, Children and Leisure

There were about 40 Members and Guests present, with apologies from Gerry Armitage, Brian Johnson, Allan Cooper and Denise Colliver

Peter Hughes, President welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced the Chamber's new Secretary, Kath Richardson, editor of www.brentfordtw8.com

Paul Skelhorn, Media & Communications Manager of Community Sports Trust (CST) presented a short film which can be downloaded off the chamber website at http://www.brentfordchamber.org/controlpanel/meeting_minutes/Feb2010CSTpresentation.pps, showing the broad range of over 20 different sports that the Trust delivers to Brentford and the wider community, reaching out to children and adults in five boroughs. Sports are delivered in a variety of ways from the giant Sports Jam in Gunnersbury Park to Street Football and after school activities. It's no longer just about football although it is of course at the heart of the CST which has won Community Club of the Year for 4 years so far.

Neil Thomas, Manager of Brentford Boating Arch (BBA), under Kew Bridge presented a short film (see above link). The Boating Arch is supported by a large number of partners and was started up with substantial help from St George. The wide variety of partners help ensure its continuity. BBA currently takes children with no boating experience and gives them the opportunity to enjoy canoeing and kayaking on the river and is about to start delivering the experience to those with special needs. It has many links and works with other groups such as the Thames Explorer Trust which looks at the biodiversity of the Thames (leeches are important) and edge, which offers white water rafting. Its coaches live locally, and have frequently started off as young participants. The aim is to create a sustainable future, with a venue that others can use, so developing the arch further as well as linking with other schemes such as Duke of Edinburgh schemes.

In response to a question on how do you publicise events and manage advertisements, Paul responded that all their media was produced in house, thus reducing costs, using schools to distribute flyers, match day programme; Neil added that as many coaches come from the target audience they bring people and friends in directly and that generally word of mouth is strongest way of bringing people in. CST has a partnership with West Side Radio, co-presenting a Saturday sports show.

A further question was on how 2012 Olympics affected matters; it's created lots of

excitement. Changing to multi skills organisation has widened the appeal and brought more children. Olympic medallists have been supporting new events.

Peter Hughes thanked the speakers and Brentford FC for hosting the meeting, followed by our five sponsors for tonight's meeting:

Peter Hughes, Photoview - commercial photographer, specialising in museums and galleries

Katie Sully, ISIS – looking forward to working with BBA, looking at temporary use of Commerce Road – next Tue eve and Wed presentation discussing next stage of planning at Grounds (further details

<http://www.brentfordtw8.com/default.asp?section=info&page=evisis002.htm>)

Mike Freely, Octink (who wasn't present)

Ian Dobie, St George – Ian is also chair of CST, very proud of long standing relationship with CST and BFC. Sustainable Development Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday where Kew Bridge site would be discussed (which was subsequently approved). Ian conveyed his thanks to Chamber members who have come to consultation events and offered their support.

John Simnett, WiZZBiKE – having a massive stall at cycling show for Disabled Cycling in October.

Brentford Festival September 5th - Linda Massey and Jan Jones – Linda gave thanks to all those who contribute behind the scenes; it takes £10,000 to put on the festival if they have sponsorship for other things like Heidelberg prints flyers etc. The Festival is organized by an amateur group who are always looking for expertise, and stall holders. It is a showcase for everyone involved in local area, Brentford and Ealing.

May Fayre 22nd May at St Paul's Recreation Ground - Sally Malit, of Brentford Toy Library is organizing this following its first year with a salsa band, donkey rides as well as food, drink and activities

St George's Day celebration on April 23rd in Market Place: High Street Steering Group / Julia Quilliam / Andrew Dakers are organizing this with food, drink, music and more

What's happening with Gunnersbury Park? Andrew Dakers summarised this: due to previous difficulties 3 days a year are allowed for big events of which the Mela takes 2. Could do more smaller scale events. Consultants produced report which said the cost of developing the Park and buildings will cost £35m including sports hub or £23m without, some could come from elsewhere but still need £16m from both councils with 8 years to deliver it all so need £1m from each council per year. Ealing offered £5m but Hounslow hasn't offered yet. Councillor Stewart is the lead for Parks.

Community Strategy Project: Andrew also introduced this project, run with Kath Richardson and Brentford Community Council along with partner organisations. This is looking how to get right level of investment in Brentford, and the right priorities for community infrastructure, starting off with a survey asking everyone involved in Brentford for their opinion to create a clear picture.

Ginette Kentish, Musical Mseum is collaborating with Kew Bridge Steam Museum to help promote both

Leigh Stops, Watermans Arts Centre, does so many things off and on site:

participative arts, dance, new media, drama courses, exhibitions of resulting work, working across 8 boroughs, Cultural Olympiad

Leslie Feore, House Manager of Syon Park, owned privately so hasn't been involved, but various changes in pipeline such as Tropical Forest going and new hotel coming in would like to get more involved in community.

Liz Gers, Extended Services liaises with 14 schools, and acts as parents support advisor, getting parents involved, health agenda, dance mats for adults and children, building up relationships with school

Amanda Foley, Brentford Children's Centre – a new building is to be built on Green Dragon, currently working out of Mission Hall but covers all of Brentford; all part of Sure Start, for children under 5, will have baby clinic for ante/post clinic, and other classes such as massage and signing yet to be decided.

Kath Richardson, www.BrentfordTW8.com - the sole online source of everything to do with Brentford: news, dates for diary, forum, service directory, commercial advertising with free publicity for community news and events; if it's not there it's not happening.

After all these brief speakers Peter Hughes announced that the next meeting should be at Audi's but is yet to be decided, that he is please with the participation at the general meetings and shall make the Chamber more dynamic over the next year with stronger connections, within the Chamber and externally with links such as Brentford TW8 and local councillors.

The meeting then closed and Members and Guests partook of refreshments.

Contact Details for Speakers

Name	Company / Event	Email / website	Phone
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Katie Sully	ISIS	katie.sully@isis.gb.com	07860 953 658
Mike Freely (absent)	Octink	mike.freely@octink.com www.octink.com	020 8232 6800
Ian Dobie	St George West London	ian.dobie@stgeorgewl.com www.stgeorgewl.com	020 8917 4000
John Simnett	WiZZBiKE	john@wizzbike.com www.wizzbike.com www.wizzbikesolutions.com (B2B)	020 8326 2819
Linda Massey	Brentford Festival	linda.massey@virgin.net	07831 106 973
Sally Malit	Brentford Toy Library, May Fayre	sally@brentfordtoylibrary.org.uk www.brentfordtoylibrary.org.uk	07941 312 712
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Ginette Kentish	Musical Museum	ginette.kentish@musicalmuseum.co.uk www.musicalmuseum.co.uk	020 8560 8108
Stuart Clark (absent)	Kew Bridge Steam Museum	stuart@kbsm.org www.kbsm.org	020 8568 4757
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