

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP

**Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.**

Date: Thursday, 10 March 2005

Time: 2.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 13th January, 2005 (copy herewith).
(Pages 1 - 3)
3. Matters Arising
4. Festival & Activities Manager
5. Christmas Illuminations - permanent wiring
6. Date of Christmas lights switch on
7. Format of 2005 Event
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of Next Meeting

**CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP
THURSDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2005**

Present: Peter Coulton (in the Chair); Councillor Jack (Deputy Mayor), Colin Scott, Stewart Lister, Paul Gray and Dawn Runciman.

Apologies were received from The Mayor (Councillor F. Wright), Julie Roberts, Town Centre & Markets Manager, Marie Hayes, Commercial and Promotional Manager, J. Sinclair, John Wadsworth and The Mayor (Councillor F. Wright)

17. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28TH OCTOBER, 2004.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 28th October, 2004 be received as a correct record.

18. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Carols from the Church

The service had worked well despite a lack of speakers. It was noted that a new speaker system would be installed in time for this December.

(b) Christmas Illuminations

Peter Coulton reported on the problems encountered with the Company appointed to install and erect lights (Blachere UK) which had mainly been due to the use of sub-contractors. It was accepted that some of the problems could have been attributed to the high winds.

A meeting had been arranged to discuss a number of issues in greater detail.

The need to involve a local Company in the fitting of lights 2005 was acknowledged.

19. FEEDBACK 2004 EVENT - (A) SWITCH ON EVENING (B) SANTA'S GROTTTO

(a) Switch On Evening

Several aspects of the switch on event had been disappointing, the worst of which had been the very bad weather, cold and snow.

However, on the whole, the event had progressed reasonably well and the parade was good.

The weather had then had an impact on the amount of people willing to queue for the Grotto.

Rainwater in electric sockets had caused problems but modifications would be made to wiring for the 2005 switch on. In addition, police radios had not worked efficiently due to the wet weather and waterproof covers had been requested for future use.

The meeting acknowledged that some of the features used this year could not have been used again on switch on owing to the cost implications, and that attractions had been scheduled throughout December in order to maximise public interest. There had therefore been "high and low" periods. In addition, it was a case of balancing the requirements of shop owners and the general public, and trying to avoid a clash of events with other towns/surrounding areas.

In terms of new attractions for this year, it was suggested that the use of an inflatable toboggan run could be pursued. Further details about this would be given at a future meeting.

In addition, the use of movie characters was suggested. These characters could undertake daily walkabouts, signings and take part in other events.

It was acknowledged that any features to be used on the parade/switch on event must be programmed in and booked by the earliest date possible.

Councillor Jack expressed the view that the dry ice rink attraction had been well received and that maybe this could be repeated this year.

Consideration would need to be given regarding where to site the rink if it was to become part of the switch on features.

Agreed:- That the Deputy Mayoress (Councillor Jack) provide Dawn Runciman with information on a suitable Company to be invited to give a quotation on the erection of a dry ice rink.

(b) Santa's Grotto

Colin Scott reported a disappointing response from the general public to the use of the Grotto. A great deal of voluntary work had been put into the initiative.

In comparing the feature to other local grottos, the entrance fee of £1.50 was felt to have offered good value for money, which had included a great deal of "goodies" in the entrance fee. As a result of low numbers through the Grotto, a great deal of stock was left over.

It was therefore felt that further consideration should be given to whether a Grotto was feasible this year.

Discussion took place on the impact other initiatives had had on

attendance figures, a particular drop being when the inflatable snowman event and reindeer had arrived, and of the grotto's future location and purpose.

For example, it was noted that the Grotto had been well used on the day of the Craft Market in the Church.

An estimated 2,000 people had visited the town centre on the day the reindeer arrived.

Discussion took place on the use of public attractions in general.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

THANKS

Peter Coulton thanked all those involved in the work of the Group, in particular those involved with switch on events, and work over the past year.

21. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Group take place on Thursday, 10th March, 2005 at 2.00 p.m.