

SOUTHEND TOURISM PARTNERSHIP

<https://www.southendtp.co.uk/>

Minutes of STP Board Meeting

Date	Thursday 26 May 2022
Venue	Roslin Beach Hotel
Time	3:00pm – 5:00pm

<p>Present- Jacqui Dallimore (JD) (Chair) Scott Dolling (SD) Alison Dewey (AD) Cllr Carole Mulrone (CCM) Helen Symmons (HS) John Harland (JH) Joan Tiney (JT) Katie Young (KY)</p> <p>Apologies Marc Miller (MM) (Vice Chair) Denise Rossiter (DR) Alice Pickering (AP) Ross McGrane (RM)</p>	<p>Roslin Beach Hotel, Managing Director SCC Director of Culture and Tourism SCC Head of Culture & Tourism Strategy SCC, Cabinet Member for Business, Culture & Tourism Leigh-on-Sea Council - Town Clerk Genting Casino Borough Hotel/SSIBA SCC (minute taking)</p> <p>Stockvale Essex Chambers SCC (minute taking) Little Smash Comedy</p>
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Discussion Points	Action
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1.	<p><u>Welcome and apologies.</u></p> <p>MM, DR, AP and RM sent apologies.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Minutes from previous meeting</u></p> <p>All agreed</p>	
3	<p><u>Updates from each sector</u></p> <p><u>Hospitality</u></p> <p>Hotel bookings are coming in later. Jubilee weekend is the quietest weekend of year for bookings at The Roslin. Discussed the possibility that more people are using extra jubilee bank holidays and going away for holidays. The weather isn't looking great but hopeful that Southend will be busy. 150 street parties have been organised. A lot of community events are also happening around the city. Genting have VIP customer dinner on Thursday which is booked but they are not particularly busy for rest of the period.</p> <p>The Roslin has free sunscreen installed for customers.</p> <p><u>Leigh</u></p> <p>Blenheim Park incident – update received from police, 1 hospitalised, another small group dispersed – not as major an incident as was made out to be in Echo.</p>	

Paddling pool was leaking after repair, it needs checking.

Safesun in Leigh, free sunscreen dispenser by beach. This has been popular; it is being trialled for a year.

There is a free Jubilee event on Sunday at Bonchurch Park.

Revamped Xmas lights have been purchased, including a 24ft Xmas tree.

Discussion about Shoebury becoming parish, benefits of Leigh being a town council. HS and JD have agreed to support JH.

ITV were filming in Leigh. Short notice given but Kevin Robinson was available to give interview.

Folk Festival event in library gardens 23-26 June.
Leigh Regatta will return in the second weekend of September.

'No drinking' signage is up but not noticeable, there have been no major anti-social drinking incidents recently.
The Heritage Centre being used as a base by community safety officers and police.

Central Seafront

Issues last Sunday with youths, 5-6pm. They parked on Marine Parade and were smoking and drinking. Police were called but did not attend. Not the right image for visitors to see.

Police should be on until at least 8pm at weekends and need to be a visible presence.

Issues with drug use are not confined to the seafront, it is also common around the cliffs area and high street. Work to build Southend as a visitor experience is being undermined by drug use/ groups of youths. There are no consequences, so they keep returning.

CCM suggested a meeting between STP and police to solve issues.

Operation Union will be bringing in extra resources – 7 people for Jubilee weekend.

Discussion about scooters- Public Space Protection Order is being rewritten to include scooters (CCM).

ACTION

CCM will write to police and ask them to attend next meeting.

Culture/Theatres/Night-time economy

JH spoke to Paul Driscoll at The Cliffs Pavilion, they had gone back to pre-pandemic levels, hospitality there is also up.

Hamlet Court Road is looking really untidy, the area has an issue with rubbish from flats above buildings.

Leigh Broadway restaurants are always busy.

Southend Film Festival begins tonight (26/5/22).

Southend City Council

CCM – Lots of events coming up including Leigh Folk Fest end of June, the Commonwealth Baton Relay in July, 017 festival happening 13/14 August in Shoebury, Southend Festival in September (including City Jam) and Halloween.

AD is now involved in City Centre Management, one of first jobs is making area outside train station appealing. They have got permission to decorate the space as part of City Jam. One of the artists is keen to work with museums to do art relevant to the area. Also plans to add planting to the balconies to improve the area. A new City Centre Management post being advertised – will manage markets and high street.

15th October – Heritage Fair – at Civic Centre - workshops/talks – want to form a Southend Heritage Society.

A new museum is no longer planned; however they desperately need storage space.

Southend plans to bid for City of Culture 2029. We need to build a body of work that proves we can put on events.

JD noted that we currently get £100k budget for 7 million visitors, this is not enough to put on events and we need more investment. We are a tourist town and need funding. She has spoken to Rob Mullen, MD of C2C and he is keen to get involved.

Overview of tourism across the community

4.

This was discussed during Central Seafront update. It was agreed antisocial behaviour was an issue across Southend and is not the image we want to portray to visiting families.

2022 – 2023 Events Update

5.

Halloween 2022 has been confirmed – discussed need to ensure entrants are high quality and enhance the event. Buggies will not be allowed on the route and entrants will not be permitted to give out leaflets.

City Jam - South Essex College have agreed for their wall to be used and art students from the college will join in to support event artists.

AD is looking for more sites for City Jam event, we also need another site for local youths to get involved.

Africa Express – a 3-day festival at airport – still under discussion.

LuminoCity – will be coming back in 2023, a media release is being prepared to announce details – this will be released after the Jubilee bank holiday.

AOB

6.

Next meeting agreed.

Date of next of meeting: 16 Jun 2022 3pm