

Forest Row Business Forum		
Date: 12 February 2015	Location: Shearers Fine Foods – 5pm	
Attendees: Martin, Indra, Jennifer, Nick, Sue, Sonya & John, Andy, Gwen, Martin Searle (FSB) Jane Kilby (WDC) Julie, Tim	Apologies:	
No	Topic	Action
Previous minutes	<p>Website www.forestrowbusiness.org.uk There will be opportunities to advertise on the website. To produce a map of Forest Row showing Forum Members.</p> <p>To look into whether there are grants which the village could apply for CCTV.</p> <p>It is possible to have meetings between the Business Forum and the PCSO. In the meantime Kate to send the link from the Parish Row Parish Council website to forum members.</p> <p>To let us know if there are any grants which maybe available re the village and the Forum.</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>JS/KTS</p> <p>KTS</p> <p>KTS</p>
1	<p>Federation of Small Businesses Martin Searle gave the Forum a very interesting talk about the FSB. There are over 200,000 members and the FSB is involved in the Keep Local Campaign. If anyone would like to join the link is www.fsb.org.uk/east-sussex</p> <p>Martin included pictures of the Forest Row St Nicholas event in the First Voice magazine for February/March 2015 under the Small business Saturday article.</p> <p>The key focuses for a village Martin discussed included parking, environment and internet presence.</p> <p>There was a discussion on brand and what Forest Row represents. Ideas from all Forum members</p>	<p>All</p>

	<p>would be welcome.</p> <p>Key projects & events can help raise the profile of small businesses within the village. Martins advice from his extensive experience is to – Focus and then move on.</p> <p>Audits of a village can be helpful e.g. ‘grot busters’</p> <p>A virtual tour of the village to be considered.</p> <p>To put link to FSB on Forum website.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Forum contact parliamentary candidates to invite them to speak at a future Forum meeting</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>SC</p> <p>MC/JS/NS</p>
2	<p>WDC</p> <p>Jane Kilby from WDC updated the Forum on her role – regeneration, tourism and community.</p> <p>There are opportunities on the WDC We Do website.</p> <p>Forms are available from Jane Kilby for those who would like to participate. Jane to forward an electronic copy to go on the Forum website.</p> <p>Other planned activities include the Walking Festival in Sept/Oct. Businesses can be included. Gwen advised that there are a number of walks set up around Forest Row. These are available on the Forest Row Parish Council website</p> <p>The Food festival at Pevesey proved successful last year. It is possible for local businesses to join together for a stall. There may also be fringe festivals this year.</p>	<p>JK</p>
3	<p>Forest Row Twining Association</p> <p>Tim Leeney provided the Forum with the background on the Forest Row Twining Association and plans for the coming year. The association welcomes new members and it is a great opportunity to learn more about Milly-la-Forêt and to become involved. The association is always looking for new host families.</p>	
4	<p>New members</p> <p>New members – it takes a little time to create awareness of the Forum and it was suggested that existing members each canvass 3 new members to increase awareness & membership.</p>	<p>All</p>
5	<p>Next meeting TBC</p>	