

ECCLESHALL BUSINESS FOCUS GROUP

CONSTITUTION

Adopted on the nineteenth day of February 2002

1. NAME

The name of the association shall be 'Eccleshall Business Focus Group' hereinafter referred to as 'the group'.

2. AREA OF BENEFIT

The area of benefit shall be Eccleshall, Staffordshire.

3. OBJECTS

The objects of the group shall be:

- To encourage the involvement and participation of local businesses in the activities of the group
- To strive to maintain and improve the economic and trading conditions of the area by whatever means are appropriate
- To undertake and encourage such measures as are needed to improve the aesthetic and other qualities of Eccleshall to increase the numbers of visitors and shoppers
- To work with other groups in, and from outside of, the Eccleshall area to mutually beneficial ends

4. POWERS

The group shall have the following powers:

- To raise funds and invite and receive contributions by way of gifts, grants, donations or otherwise in furtherance of the objects provided that the group shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in its own right
- To arrange and provide for, or participate in arranging and providing for, the holding of meetings, events and presentations and to publicise such activities and events to the local business community
- To co-operate and consult with other organisations including the local authority and voluntary and statutory agencies to further the objects of the group and to exchange information and advice
- To buy, rent, own and run property and any other assets in the furtherance of its objects

- To produce or assist in producing papers, pamphlets, newsletters, documents and tapes (whether audio or visual) which further the objects of the group
- To recruit new members to the group
- To do any other such lawful things as is necessary to achieve the objects of the group

5. MEMBERSHIP

- Membership of the group shall be open to anyone in business in the Parish of Eccleshall, without distinction of race, colour, culture, gender, sexual orientation, disability or of political, religious or other opinions, interested in furthering the objects
- The Secretary of the group shall keep a list of all members
- The group shall have the power by a two-thirds majority to expel any member who has acted against the interests of the group
- The officers of the group shall be Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer and any such additional officers as the group may deem necessary

6. MEETINGS OF THE GROUP

- An AGM will be held within 15 months of the adoption of the constitution, or within 15 months of the previous AGM. The business of the AGM will include:
 - (a) the minutes of the previous AGM and any matters arising therefrom
 - (b) a report of the activities of the group during the year
 - (c) a Treasurers report
 - (d) the election of the committee
 - at least 21 days written notice of the AGM shall be given
 - at least one additional general meeting of the group shall be called each year
 - at least 14 days written notice shall be given of other general meetings
- An emergency meeting of the group to deal with urgent matters not otherwise covered by other meetings may be called either by the Chair or at the written request of at least three members of the group. The Secretary of the group must call such a meeting within four weeks of receiving such a request
- Voting at all meetings shall be decided by simple majority. The Chair shall have an additional, casting vote in the event of a tied vote
- A quorum at general meetings shall be 6 members
- The elected Secretary of the group will keep a record of all proceedings and correspondence relating to the group

7. FINANCE

- All monies raised for and on behalf of the group shall be applied to further its objects and for no other purpose
- The Treasurer shall open a bank account in the name of the group

- All cheques will require at least two signatures. The signatories must include the Treasurer and the Secretary
- The financial year will run from January to December
- The Treasurer shall record all items of income and expenditure
- The Treasurer shall present accounts
- The group will charge and receive membership fees in the sums and on the terms agreed by a majority at the first formal meeting following the adoption of the constitution.

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendments may be made to the constitution at the AGM or at a specially convened general meeting. Any proposal to amend the constitution should be received, in writing, by the Secretary not less than 14 days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.

9. DISSOLUTION

The group may be wound up by a two-thirds majority of those present at a general meeting or AGM. At least 28 day's written notice must be given of the meeting at which it is proposed to wind up the group.

The persons whose signatures appear below on the date mentioned above adopted this constitution

Signed.....

