

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
22nd September 2020**

LJ/2020

3rd September 2020

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

AGENDA ITEM 18 – FAIR TRADE TOWN STATUS

AIM

1. *To consider a request from the Fairtrade Steering Group that the Town Council supports Fairtrade and agrees to serve Fairtrade products.*

BACKGROUND

2. See the enclosed extract of correspondence from the Chair of the Fairtrade Steering Group.

SUMMARY

3. To support the Fairtrade status of the Town, the Town Council is being asked to resolve that it serves Fairtrade products.

RECOMMENDATION(s)

4. It is recommended that the Town Council RESOLVES:

To confirm its commitment to serve Fairtrade products where practicable.

Lee Jakeman
Town Clerk

EXTRACT OF CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN CLERK AND TOWN MAYOR FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BRIDGNROTH FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP

I am writing as Chair of Bridgnorth Fairtrade Steering Group.

As you know Bridgnorth has been a Fairtrade Town since 2003 and its Fairtrade Town status has to be reaffirmed every two years.

In case you are not aware Fairtrade Town Status is achieved when the following "Five Goals" have been achieved:

1. Local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings, offices and canteens). For an extra challenge, why not explore the public procurement of Fairtrade goods?
2. A range of (at least four) Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's retail outlets (shops, supermarkets, newsagents, petrol stations) and served in local catering outlets (cafes, restaurants, pubs).
3. Local workplaces and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges etc.) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products wherever possible. Populations over 100,000 will also need a flagship employer.
4. Media coverage and events raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.
5. A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure the Fairtrade Town campaign continues to develop and gain new support.

Goal 1 refers to the local council. Please can you confirm that the Council is still committed to this goal. Until last year the Council had a representative on the Fairtrade Steering Group. Cllr. Carol Whittle was the last rep and before that it was my wife Val. I don't remember whether he was Council Rep but Cllr Mac Griffiths attended some of our meetings. The Steering Group has not met for some time (see below) but there was no Councillor involved in the last few meetings we had. Is there any significance in this fact?

Goals 2 & 3 are definitely still being met. Goal 5: The Steering Group is in the "doldrums" and needs revitalizing. If you know anybody who would be interested please let me know. Goal 4: This year was the first year I can remember when we haven't done anything in Fairtrade Fortnight that warranted "Media coverage"

We have to respond to Fairtrade Foundation in order to renew our Fairtrade Town Status by the end of October this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Ray Gill"