

30.9.21

Agenda item 16 The Wemian

From: Geoff Soul <geoffsoul49@gmail.com>
Sent: 27 August 2021 09:12
To: Town Clerk <info@wem.gov.uk>
Subject: Wemian

Hi Penny

For information:

I met with Andy Woods and his wife yesterday. The Wemian is alive and well with a new young editor who is keen and full of ideas.

At present they publish in black and white and will return to two printed copies per annum (alongside the online version) from December, distributed to Town Hall, Library, doctors etc as before. They are looking to move to full colour.

The publishing software and printing contract are still in place.

Costs, for two copies a year, are roughly £2000 total and they have committed advertising worth £4000 pa with a waiting list, so finances are healthy. Accounts and invoice collection are moving online: that will be a job for me to complete.

Andy is still prepared to be involved in a coordinating role alongside others. I have (rashly) agreed to take over the finances. Then there is the editor (whose name I've temporarily forgotten) and we feel we'd like to add one more interested person to make an informal committee to oversee things. Ideas from yourself or Councillors will be welcome.

Andy is very flexible on how the gift to the TC would be used, but would like some physical item(s) to benefit the town, probably with a plaque noting the donation from the Wemian and names of individuals who have run the magazine. Jubilee Square improvement would fit well. In view of the healthy finances, we don't think it unreasonable to look for an initial gift followed by an annual maintenance grant, maybe to look after and plant flower beds. There is no rush for decisions.

This all feels encouraging. I'd welcome your thoughts and would be happy to share with Councillors if you think appropriate.

Best wishes

Geoff