

## COWBRIDGE



FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

27 - 28 OCTOBER 2007

[www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org](http://www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org)

Event Office, PO Box 63, Cowbridge CF71 9AS  
Tel:- 07875 290428

The Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Road,  
Barry  
Vale of Glamorgan  
CF63 4RU

### **Re: Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival**

Dear Leader,

Let me start by thanking you so much for your time last week when we had the photo shoot and cheque presentation in front of the Cowbridge town hall for the 2007 Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival.

We have had some changes in our organisational structure that I would like to detail to you and request the council's input in terms of how we should proceed in obtaining your, kindly agreed, financial support to the Festival.

The Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival was born out of the Cowbridge 750<sup>th</sup> celebrations in 2004. As such it has been part of the Cowbridge Charter Trust since that time. However, the festival has continued to develop and grow to a point whereby it was dominating the activities of the Charter Trust and the trustees requested our committee to separate ourselves from the Charter Trust which we did at the end of last year.

At the same time we initiated establishing the Cowbridge Festival as a Charitable Trust and applied to the Charities Commission in 2006 to become an independent charity. Unfortunately after several months of dialogue and correspondence, the Charities Commission rejected our application stating that they could not accept a food and drink festival with strong commercial elements as a charity.

Therefore, at the beginning of this year, we established a separate organisation Cowbridge Food Festival Ltd, a bone fide, non-profit making company limited by guarantee with its

Cowbridge Food Festival Limited.

A Company Limited by Guarantee and Registered in Wales, No: 6081301  
Registered Office: Sheepleys, Llandow, Cowbridge, CF71 7PA

own Memorandum and Articles of Association with volunteer directors acting as its executive. I attach a copy of these for your information.

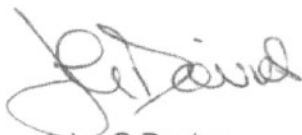
Despite this a number of our committee still felt the need to establish a Trust Company, in addition to the Limited Company, as we already had agreements in place as a Trust with organisations such as yourselves. We therefore endeavoured to establish a Trust Company through a Cardiff based firm of solicitors. Unfortunately, after several weeks/months of inactivity we resigned ourselves to finding an alternative firm and this time chose a local Cowbridge firm. Again it was many weeks before we received any response and this firm is now questioning the need to establish a Trust Company at all as a Trust is only applicable in law when you have charitable status.

So we find ourselves back to square one after almost a year of frustrating efforts as an independent non-profit making organisation without being a Trust. Therefore, we are seeking clarification from the Vale Council whether it is acceptable for your organisation to provide the agreed funding for our Festival to our established limited company or would you like us to continue and establish a Trust company despite its lack of legal status.

I'm sorry if this has been a rather lengthy letter, but felt the need to go into some of the history and details to help explain the problems we have had.

We look forward to your response and obviously find us in some time critical areas as we are dependent on the funding from the Vale Council for this year's Festival which is rapidly approaching.

Yours sincerely,



John G Davies  
Chairman

Cc Glyn John - Cabinet Member for Tourism and Leisure  
Cc Chris Fray - Head of Economic Development and Leisure