



**Town Centre Working Group
Notes
Thursday 20th April 2023**

Present: Cllrs Love and Manton and the Town Clerk
Apologies: Cllr Chapman, Cllr Erwin & Cllr Sanderson

- 1. To consider the report and recommendations from the second Town Centre Audit and to agree recommendations to go to Council.**

The report produced by Cllr Chapman was discussed and agreed.

Although some of the issues had been rectified it was felt that not enough action has been taken by owners/occupiers and that a second letter should be sent to them encouraging the necessary repairs/improvements. The letter should also mention the Recognition Scheme which will identify properties which have a good outward appearance and are in good condition. Action: BC to draft letter.

An additional 8 properties and 3 public realm issues have been added to the list. It was agreed the original letter, explaining about the Building Inspections be sent to the owners/occupiers requesting they make the necessary repairs.

To acknowledge repairs have been completed on some properties a letter of thanks should be issued to the owners/occupiers. Action: BC to draft letter.

During the recent inspection 5 properties were identified as being worthy of commendation for their outward appearance, as an example for others to strive towards. It was agreed to recommend to Council that a certificate of recognition be awarded to these properties.

The above recommendations to be added to the report ready to be presented at the next Community and Governance Committee Meeting along with the draft letters.

- 2. Certificate draft development.**

3 draft certificates were tabled. It was agreed that the gold certificate was the best and should be presented to Committee for approval.

- 3. To hear a verbal update on a meeting with OneDayRegen who are carrying out a feasibility study on the Town Centre.**

The clerk reported that OneDayRegen have been employed by Shropshire Council to carry out a feasibility study of the 5 North Shropshire market towns. Part of their brief is to identify the particular needs of each town and create a bespoke scheme for each. They will also look at funding mechanisms that could be put in place to take such a project forward. Mr Anderson from OneDayRegan visit Market Drayton on the 17 April, he asked about the history of the town, local issues and what could be improved. The next stage of his work will be to arrange a workshop with all the market towns; details to follow.

Funding for the feasibility study was secured through the UKSPIF. The second stage of the funding is now open; it was hoped that the feasibility study would have been completed and projects identified in time to bid into this round of funding, unfortunately this is not the case as the closing date is the 12 May.

4. Any other business

A discussion took place around suitable projects for the UKSPF and the following were identified:

- Interactive display boards on the front and back of the alleyway by the library
- Updating town centre signage and noticeboards
- Shop front improvement scheme.

As the timescale to submit funding applications is quite short Councillors discussed the need for some projects to be 'worked up' ready to be put forward for funding in the future.



**Town Centre Working Group
NOTES
Monday 5 June 2023**

Present – Cllrs Chapman, Love and Manton
Not present – Cllrs Erwin and Sanderson

1. Notes

The notes from the meeting held on the 20th April 2023 were approved.

2. Draft letters produced by Cllr Chapman

- a. The draft letter to be sent to properties where the issues have been resolved was approved.
- b. The draft letter to be sent to Second property inspection letter to be sent to properties where issues identified have not been resolved was approved.

It was discussed that in some cases properties may have resolved some issues and have other issues outstanding. In these cases the two letters would be merged rather than sending out two separate letters.

3. Recognition Scheme Criteria

The draft Town Centre property condition recognition Scheme Criteria was approved.

The certificate was approved at the previous meeting.

4. Audit of Finger Post Signs in the Town Centre

To consider carrying out an audit of the finger post signs in the town and making recommendations for new/replacement fingers was discussed. It was agreed that this could be a suitable town centre enhancement project that could secure possible High Street funding.

5. Town centre projects

Members discussed having a list of 'ready to go' town centre projects, for example updating signposts, finger post and street furniture.

6. Recommendations to the Community and Governance Committee.

The report was considered and it was agreed that it would be presented to the Community and Governance Committee Meeting on the 29th June 2023.

7. Any other business

Awarding of the Recognition Scheme Certificate

It was agreed that the certificates should be presented as a scroll by the Mayor; a laminated copy to be provided to be displayed in the premises window. The presentations to be at the shop/business premises, local press to be invited and/or publicity produced by the Town Council.