

Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

Date:	14 March 2017
Title:	TCWG: Market Town Co-Ordinator Update
Contact Officer:	Becky Reid, Market Town Co-Ordinator

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an overview of work undertaken since last report 31st January 2017.

Update

2. Infrastructure

Parking & Road Signage

- Car Parks: Parking signage proposal about changes needed: currently being costed. Communicating with OCC about any legal restrictions in place regarding road signs.
- Town Gateway Signs: Meeting to discuss booked for 30th March 2017 to agree next steps.
- MTCO has taken on chair of TPWG – Parking Sub-group

3. Communication

Town Awards

- Submitted entry to Local Legend Awards, nominating 21stCT. They were successful in winning the following prizes:
 - Digital Health Check score from Real Towns <http://www.realtowns.co.uk/digital-health-check/>
 - Half-day workshop to help Thame make the most of its data delivered by Noggin. It will us to collect data more effectively and use it to support growth in the area. <https://www.noggin.bi/>
 - Free treasure trail for Thame from Global Treasure Apps plus 12 months marketing support material. <http://globaltreasureapp.com/>
 - Revive and Thrive Place Magazine Special feature on Thame <http://reviveandthrive.co.uk>

Other achievements in Thame:

- 'Best Kebab Van in the UK' achieved by Atalay. Awards attended by Cllr Emery
- Top 100 employers: Peach Pubs (James Figg & The Thatch)

Improved digital Communication

Updated Website proposal: A meeting was held with councillors and officers and an initial proposal and next steps were agreed. Currently awaiting quote from Connect (our current providers) for carrying out this work. In the meantime feedback is being sought from 21stCT

Improved on-street Communication

Review of promotion opportunities available for local community groups, charities and businesses underway. Also starting to review pedestrian signage around the town centre.

4. Partnership Working

21st Century Thame: Continue to engage closely with this group through our nomination of them for the Local Legends Awards. Will be working to help develop the prizes.

Thame Business Forum: Attended this to introduce myself. Will be presenting website proposal at next meeting on April 25th for feedback.

5. Business Engagement and Support

Consultation

Now that the first draft of the website has been approved I will be meeting with high street businesses to get their feedback on the proposal. I will also be consulting with them on their thoughts about event engagement, a town Welcome Pack, and a Buy Local Scheme.

Oxford Business Enterprise

Plans are in place for us to host OBE's advice service for start-up businesses. This will offer free 1:1 support for start-ups and new businesses up to 2 years old. They will run fortnightly on Thursdays from the Meeting room at the Town Hall.

6. Tourism

Meeting held with Tony Long about a webpage dedicated to Midsomer: included in website development proposal.

7. Thame Markets

Market Entertainment

Delivery of two events at the Market: 'Love your Local Market' on Valentines day, and 'Pancake Day' on Shrove Tuesday. Both engaged the Market Traders well, and received positive feedback from customers. Now working towards an Easter Egg Hunt that will engage local businesses around Thame town centre as well as the Market.

8. Town Centre Working Group

No further meetings have taken place. Will be taking action to widen the membership of this group.

9. Working with SODC

Ongoing. No specific action.

Action Required

To note the report