

Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

Date:	22 May 2018
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 13 March 2018.

Update

2. Town Centre Working Group

Latest Town Centre Working Group meeting took place Tuesday 25 April 2018.

Supporting Existing Businesses

2.1. Businesses newsletter: first edition has been further delayed to ensure that it is GDPR compliant prior to launch. Promotion of this is also on hold for this reason.

2.2. Customer Survey has now been fully reviewed with the following Action Agreed:

- There is a lot of information that should be used to inform the renewal of our NP;
- Information to be shared with Mike Broun & Chris Hurdman from the market;
- Feedback about Occasional Markets shared with Cassie Pinnells for consideration;
- Publish results through the Business Newsletter;
- Consideration needs to be given to how to improve publicity of what we have in Thame. The survey showed a lot of people don't know about services/opportunities that already exist. The new website should achieve this, along with the Visitor Economy Working Group's Action – we will review whether this has been successful as part of future survey;
- Public toilet comments to be passed on to relevant department at SODC by Dave Cookson;
- Arrange meeting with Charity Shop Managers to recruit help to meet gaps in need – further discussion about how to achieve this at next TCWG meeting.

2.3. Town Centre Events Calendar distributed so Shop Owners are aware of events coming up.

2.4. Shop Vacancy Survey Completed.

2.5. Parking Surveys are to be set up through Survey Monkey, along with footfall counting, to start to identify baseline figures to monitor both.

Environment & Infrastructure

2.6. Final places for Gateway signage has been approved by OCC. However we are now delaying implementation to monitor whether the proposed locations will be suitable based on the amount of growth in each of these areas seeing as OCC only grass cut twice a year. This will be reviewed in mid-June before next steps are taken. Meanwhile conversations about next steps with Planters will continue, including consideration about re-location or replacements.

Partnership work

2.7. Town Centre Shopping Guide: adoption approved by Town Clerk. Design delayed due to designer's personal situation. Hope to be completed by end of May. Boards have been restored where needed.

- 2.8. Global Treasure App trails: These are currently being promoted.
- 2.9. Thame edition of Revive & Thrive: Copy completed. Edition to be printed soon once costs confirmed
- 2.10. 'Taste of Thame': meeting to discuss this proposed event took place 15 March. Although a small turnout there was a lot of enthusiasm and Hannah & Joe from Deli@No5 have since set up a website (www.tasteofthame.com) to gather all details of people who are interested. They have expressions of interest from a good number of shops around the town.

3. Town Centre Business Forum

- 3.1. Last met on Thursday 19 April with a focus on Taste of Thame and 2 other events: a Thame Wedding Fair - this has a lot of interest so will be further investigated for 2019; Thame Art Crawl which will be re-run with Susannah Fellows (fitchandfellows) and Lisa Barnes (Delphine Art) on the Steering group. Meeting to be arrange in May for next steps.
- 3.2. Online survey in place to gather opinions about Towns Digital presence continuing, this will continue until a greater understanding of want/need has been established.

4. Public Arts Working Group

- 4.1. This group continues to meet monthly and expects to have the first draft of the strategy ready by their June meeting as planned.

5. Visitor Economy Working Group

- 5.1. This group continues to meet, working on identified action. The current focus is mapping what avenues exist to promote Thame and developing our Midsomer Murders Offer.

6. Thame Markets

- 6.1. Love Your Local Market 2018 is up and running with events each Tuesday of May that focus on showcasing different elements of the market. These include: An exhibition, Free Tasters, Children's Activities, Live Music and some fun activities to celebrate the Royal wedding. This is receiving some good Social Media publicity and will be promoted to parents by the schools/PTFAs at each of the Primary Schools.

7. Next Steps for TCWG

- 7.1. Deciding how to engage Charity Shops to meet gaps in market
- 7.2. Thoughts about how to start to pro-actively engage Landlords in the future development of Thame Town Centre.

8. Working with SODC

We continue to communicate with SODC as needed. However no official meetings are in place any more. Separately meetings have been arrange directly with the Henley and Wallingford MTCOs to share ideas and best practice.

9. Other

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee are carrying out a [High streets and town centres in 2030 inquiry](#) to examine the future role of the high street in contributing to the local economy and the health, cohesion and cultural life of the local community and the challenges faced amid changing demographic, technological and other trends in recent decades. It will also look at how local areas are planning for the future of their high streets and town centres and creating the conditions to sustain them in the years ahead, as well as whether councils have the planning, licensing, tax raising and other tools needed to help local areas flourish. Submissions are requested by Friday 22nd June and we will seek to make one by this date.

Action Required: To note the report