

Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

Date:	3 May 2022
Title:	TCWG: Market Town Co-Ordinator Update
Contact Officer:	Becky Reid, Market Town Co-ordinator

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an overview of the current focus of work and action taken since 15 March 2022.

Update

2. **Town Centre vibrancy & vitality: Town Centre Working Group (TCWG)**

- 2.1. Due to Easter holidays have not met since last report.

3. **Partnership work with 21stCT & Thame Green Living**

- 3.1. Partnership work has expanded to support the work of Thame Green Living who are working closely with 21st Century Thame. This is so that work can progress on the Thame Green Living Plan – attracting funding and volunteers – prior to it establishing its legal status which is still in progress. Included in this is supporting where needed work to support information and advice for an anti-idling project, 20s Plenty, and exploring increased awareness of Bike racks in the town centre. Along with encouraging more volunteers to come forward. Support to improve the TGL website has been given (although this is on an advisory basis with work being done by 21st Century Thame volunteers)
- 3.2. Taste of Thame: This event is gaining momentum on social media and will be finalised over the next fortnight. Publicity for it will then be created ready for the event. There are a team of volunteers who are all very engaged which is making the whole project more achievable. Included in this is the recruitment of a new volunteer who may well be happy to lead on the project next year, and into the future, based on this year being a success.
- 3.3. Thame Art Crawl: Applications progressing positively. The work of the Social Media volunteer is supporting this really well. Action needed on this project starts to increase in May, but will now be easier to achieve due to a longer run in before the event – allowing the workload to be more balanced.
- 3.4. Volunteering Opportunities coffee mornings/evenings continue to run. This month groups featured were Red Kite Family Centre, Thame Senior Friendship Centre and the event itself, which wants to recruit a volunteer to help run it into future years. It has resulted in a slow and steady trickle of volunteers who are keen to get involved – quality over quantity. The work has really helped people learn about opportunities and explore different things that they might be interested in, before settling on one.

4. **Visitor Economy Working Group (VEWG)**

- 4.1. Meeting of this working group took place 12 April 2022 with updates about projects and events taking place in 2022
- 4.2. Still need to invite some businesses from the town to take part in the VEWG going forward but this is on hold until we determine the role of this group going forward.
- 4.3. Visit Thame Leaflet distribution to be continued for 2022.

5. Public Arts

- 5.1. Art leading Wayfinding: currently getting permissions from OCC and Thame Meadows for installation of this artwork.
- 5.2. Have met with Lea Park Residents Association who are very supportive and will be presenting at their AGM on 18th May to a wider resident audience.
- 5.3. Still trying to connect with St Joseph's school, who we hope will play a part in naming the trail.
- 5.4. Met with Thame Museum to progress how to link the trail to them.
- 5.5. Have received support from a Cuttle Brook Conservation Volunteers, and waiting for further responses if relevant.
- 5.6. Following LPRA residents meeting we will also continue to develop Lea Park designs. Contact has been made with Barley Hill school to engage them in this.

6. Thame Markets

- 6.1. Spring Market and World Village market have both run successfully. First inspection from SODC took place and one issue with paperwork was identified. We are using this to improve for future events.
- 6.2. Regular Street Food Market to be launched in Thame from July with AyStreatmeet on a 6-month trial

7. Other MTCO work

- 7.1. Roundels for Thame Outer Circuit have been received and will be put out around this walk by volunteers from the Ramblers. We need additional stickers to use where there are already roundels that could accommodate this, and these are being investigated now.
- 7.2. Stickers for Thame Inner circuit have been approved after initially stating that they were not suitable. Now need to send OCC the details of these for final approval so that we can get them implemented as soon as possible.
- 7.3. New version of Leaflet No 6 (walking and cycling) to be completed this year. Work yet to start on this, but hope to do so in May.
- 7.4. Will shortly be drawing a group together to explore an event that uses the Outer Circuit for an annual run/walk/jog activity
- 7.5. Queen Jubilee booklet was created and delivered to Thame homes with little cost to Thame Town Council.

8. SODC

- 8.1. Shop Appy is being rolled out across South Oxfordshire, including Thame. Met with SODC and Shop Appy representative about this. Will provide a platform for local businesses to set up an online platform to sell to local residents. A delivery service and a click and collect service will be part of it, with one provider delivering shopping from multiple businesses to customers, coordinated through a central hub. Plan to explore this as a e-cargo bike project.

9. Statistics

- Monthly Business Newsletter: 278 subscribers, up from 276
- Weekly Town Council Newsletter: 1085 subscribers, down from 1116 subscribers (this could be due to a technical issues that Red Squid have now resolved so we expect to see this rise again).
- Town Council Facebook page: 1500 followers up from 1473 at last report.

Action Required:

- To note the report.
- To share details of anyone who may be interested in hosting monthly drop-in volunteer sessions after September 2022.