

Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

Date:	14 June 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 3 May 2022.

Update

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

- 2.1. Due to Taste of Thame commitments have not met since last report.

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

- 3.1. Continue to work with Thame Green Living and 21st Century Thame to progress work on Thame Green Living Plan. Through this several projects have started to gain traction, with people coming forward to play a part in supporting the work to happen. This includes planting at Hamilton Road, 20s Plenty, Air Quality and an Anti-idling project (still to be developed). Several pots of funding have been secured from local businesses to help to drive these forward, some of which is going towards staff hours at 21stCT to allow additional capacity to keep things moving and some towards resources needed. Lucy Electric are currently exploring the creation of bug hotels to be placed in each primary school. These projects are all at different stages.
- 3.2. Taste of Thame: This event ran successfully in its first year with lots of positive feedback. We will be using this feedback to explore how to improve it and re-run it and develop it. A huge success was the recruitment of volunteers to support the project which it couldn't have run without. However even with this team the event will not be able to happen without additional capacity – either within the TTC team, or from additional external volunteers. The level of work undertaken by the MTCO is not sustainable as all other work had to be put on hold for a month.
- 3.3. Thame Art Crawl: Applications are closed and there have been enough applications to fill our current space. This is thanks to the work of a volunteer social administrator. The team behind this has grown from just the MTCO with limited support from a shop owner to a team of 5 additional volunteers. The hope is that eventually someone else will come forward and chair it so there is less for volunteers to do.
- 3.4. Volunteering Opportunities coffee mornings/evenings continue to run. The most recent was an evening session based at Thame Players. Volunteers continue to be attracted to this event – only 4-5 a month, but all of these are people really keen to get involved and support the voluntary work going on in our town.

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

- 4.1. Meeting of this working group took place 7 June 2022 with updates about projects and events taking place in 2022
- 4.2. We continue to need people to take responsibility for taking flyers to just one local venue a month – this includes town centre venues. Please consider supporting this as it really helps

people learn more about what is on and support the activities that so many volunteers work so hard to put on.

5. Public Arts

- 5.1. Art leading Wayfinding: continuing to seek permissions from OCC and Thame Meadows for installation of this artwork.
- 5.2. Presented the proposed designs for Lea Park to LPRA residents association who were very supportive. They still applied for a grant for their own notice board. Although refused at this time will continue to work with them to progress this if the Public Art does not meet their needs. Continuing to develop this.
- 5.3. St Joseph's school are running a competition to get the children who attend the school to name the Thame Meadows Story trail.

6. Thame Markets

- 6.1. Regular Street Food Market to be launched in Thame from July with AyStreatmeet on a 6-month trial – work is progressing on this to make it happen.

7. Other MTCO work

- 7.1. Starting to develop an action plan from the Thame Green Living Plan, that monitors what has already been achieved against this and identifies gaps etc. Will also be exploring a quarterly meeting with any interested parties about how to take this forward by engaging the community to help achieve the outcomes as well as linking relevant parties as needed.
- 7.2. Other action has not been moved forward since last month due to capacity. These will now be picked up. These are:
 - Stickers to use in Thame Outer Circuit where there are already roundels that could accommodate this, and these are being investigated now.
 - Stickers for Thame Inner circuit.
 - New version of Leaflet No 6 (walking and cycling).
 - Thame Outer Circuit event idea

8. SODC

- 8.1. Shop Appy has been launched in Thame, but so far limited take up.

9. Statistics

- Monthly Business Newsletter: 283 subscribers, up from 278
- Weekly Town Council Newsletter: 1105 subscribers, up from 1085 subscribers.
- Town Council Facebook page: 1580 followers up from 1500 at last report.

Action Required:

- To commit to delivering leaflets to just one venue each.
- To note the report.