

Briefing Note for Community Well Being PDG Update on Town Teams and Town Centre Projects

The purpose of this briefing paper is to make Members aware of the work that is being done by the Town Teams and also to advise them of some of the Town Centre Projects which are currently being undertaken.

Cullompton Town Team

The Cullompton Town Team has been established for a number of years now and since April 2013 has brought in £114,000 of funding to deliver projects within the town. It is made up of representatives from business, community and voluntary groups and local authorities.

Penny Bayer (Grants and Funding Officer) continues to provide support and assistance to the Cullompton Town Team.

Projects that have been delivered over include:

- The first Cullompton food and drink festival which took place on Saturday 10th October and was a success
- Cloth trade project
- Shopfront scheme
- Tidying up 'grot spots' in the Town
- Sheep notice boards
- Archive Project

They are working on the following projects:

- Further food and drink projects and festivals for 2016
- Townscape Heritage Initiative – potentially up to £1m external funding to support improvements to town centre conservation area
- Public art projects including improving the entrance to the town
- Tourism projects including town guide, events listing, interactive touch screen information, coach tours
- Art House project

The Cullompton Town Team were recently successful in being awarded £7,500 from the High Street Innovation Fund to help them take forward their future plans.

Cullompton Farmers Market

The Cullompton Farmers Market were awarded money from the High Street Innovation Fund in 2015 to help them set up a community shop in the town centre. The Consultation and Youth Involvement Officer is currently working with them to help them develop their business plan and take this project forward.

Crediton Town Team

The Crediton Town Team is the newest Town Team but it is already delivering projects for the community. It is made up of representatives from business, community and voluntary groups and local authorities.

Paul Tucker (Grants and Funding Officer) continues to provide support and assistance to the Crediton Town Team.

Projects that have been delivered over include:

- Crediton Festival 2015
- Christmas plans 2015
- Inaugural St Boniface celebration event 2015

They are working on the following projects:

- Crediton Festival 2017
- Crediton Food Festival 2016 (this will be the 8th festival)
- Crediton flags project 2016
- Improving signage on the entry points to the town
- Café culture and improving the use of Crediton Town Square
- Tourism projects
- Creating a 'community and cultural' hub for the town
- St. Boniface celebration and re-enactment/birth of the Christmas Tree on his Feast Day on 5 June 2016, the inaugural event in June 2015 proving to be a greater success than the Town Team had anticipated.

Tiverton Town Team (Portas Team)

Some of the projects being worked on by the Portas Team are:

- The 3rd Feast of St James taking place on 23rd July 2016
- Literary Festival for 2016
- Coach Parking
- Business Improvement District

The Town Centre Manager is working with the Portas Team on the development of the Business Improvement District (BID). A Town Centre Partnership will be set up for the businesses to take forward the BID, with the support of the Portas Team and Council, and a meeting is taking place on the 1st March to take this forward.

Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life

The Museum were awarded money from the High Street Innovation Fund for the Tivvy Bumper sculpture trail in 2016. The Town Centre Manager is working with the Museum on this project and it is progressing well with approximately 20 bumpers being funded.

Age UK

Age UK were also awarded money from the High Street Innovation Fund for a dementia friendly town centre project. The Town Centre Manager is working with Age UK on this project and currently assisting them with finding additional sources of funding to make the project happen.

Tiverton Town Centre Projects

The Town Centre Manager is working on a number of projects, which include:

- Improving the street scene of the town centre particularly around the area of coach parking
- Working with colleagues and landlords to look at empty flats above shops in the town centre
- Looking at the night time economy and this can be improved for families
- Working with businesses on a proactive approach to town centre security and reducing the amount of shoplifting
- Looking at the programme of events for 2016 and working on the Christmas programme

Tiverton Pannier Market

The team are working on the following:

- Improving the general market days
- The Electric Nights events for 2016
- Continental Markets
- Working with the Town Centre Manager on the Christmas programme for 2016

The Market Manager is retiring in March 2016 so recruitment of a replacement is currently underway.

Joint working

It is envisaged that by having officers working with and supporting the three towns in the District that we will be able to work together on certain projects and also to share best practice.

This is already starting to take place and an example is a project for coach parking. Officers are working with the Town Teams across the District to develop a package of information that can be promoted to coach companies and proactively marketed with the aim of bringing in tourists.