

Notes from the Town Team Meeting Tuesday 9th February 2016

Present: Helen Nathanson, Lindsay Garner, Ian Franklin, Peter Rees, Bob Tildesley, Mike Craddock, David Martin, Wendy Reid, John Elford, Councillor Robert Vint

Apologies: Councillors R Adams, Jacqi Hodgson and Ben Piper, Frances Northrop and Richard O'Connell

1. Market Square Feasibility Study

A progress update was given to the group. The results of the businesses surveys to market traders and traders in the vicinity of the Square have now been analysed and the results shown in the Initial Feasibility Research Report. They demonstrate how important the markets are for *Totnes* and how important *Totnes* market is for the wider area because many traders rely on it to keep their stalls viable.

The design work was waiting on these results to ensure that the design reflected the consultation work. It is now underway and we will have an update on that before the next meeting.

The need to broaden this work out into a Market Strategy was then discussed and it was agreed that we need to have one for Totnes. The importance of the markets was emphasised and that the Strategy can identify how the markets should be run and how they can be improved. It can also focus on all market and street trading possibilities in Totnes, rather than just the Civic Square. All present felt that this was a niche piece of work and that we needed someone with the right qualifications and experience to produce it. The Town Clerk will investigate and come back to the next meeting with some quotes and specifications.

2. Town Centre Manager (TCM)

This was discussed and all agreed that there is a role for someone to draw together all the existing groups and organisations with an interest in or responsibility for the town centre and drive improvements in public realm, arts and events and business. The tie-in with tourism services was identified because there is no point attracting people to Totnes if the town does not live up to the marketing. Previous work from Hidden Britain was referred to and it was agreed that we still have many actions from this which we have not yet been able to implement. It was also felt that this would be a good time to start looking at this because it has been identified as a priority for the Town Council and we have an active Town Team to support the role.

The group looked at examples of job descriptions from other TCM roles and agreed that we need to draw up a job description for a Totnes TCM. The Town Clerk will draft and bring this to the next meeting.

3. Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Policies

The Team looked through a selection of policies from other Plans and identified some which are roughly applicable to Totnes. The Town Clerk will collate these into a draft Vision and Priorities for the next meeting.

4. Business Rates Options

Robert Vint has been approached about improving the formula for calculating Business Rates and he asked for feedback on this from anyone with an interest.

5. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th March at 5.30pm** in the Guildhall.