

Hungerford Town Centre Steering Group
1st of February 2024

Present: James Cole (Chair), Sam Robins, Helen Simpson, Alistair Fyfe, Julie Lloyd, Karen Salmon, Adrian Gilmour, Hugh Pihlens, Anna Doherty

1	<p>Welcome Apologies were received from Charlie Barr and Simon Lee Smith</p>
2	<p>Previous Meeting Actions</p> <p>West Berkshire Council no longer have the resources to administer the steering group meetings and have asked the group if they are able to take over this role. The group will consider options.</p> <p>There were updates given from Karen Salmon on her conversations with Greenham Trust and Sustrans.</p> <p>There were updates given from Alistair Fyfe on West Berkshire Council's response to the queries about Station Road car park: The Station Road Car Park and Cuttings Project, covering tidying up both areas, is a West Berkshire Council responsibility with Hungerford Parish Council working with them to ensure the work will be done, and also Network Rail for the land beside the railway including the railings beside the footpath. The bushes in the car park are scheduled to be tidied in the Spring. Further requests will be needed to have rubbish removed, lampposts including the glass cleaned or if broken, replaced.</p> <p>West Berkshire Council updates:</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>Anna has spoken with WBC highways team who have informed us that if the signs relate to the "bus only" restriction the highways team are already in the process of looking at whether that restriction is still necessary and if it isn't they could remove the signs.</p> <p>If it is more general, the highways team are trying to minimise the number of signs to avoid cluttering the street scene and they can have a look to see if there are any signs that could be taken away.</p> <p>Lamppost Maintenance</p> <p>Anna updated the group that if a light (or a post that it sits on) needs to be repaired or replaced, they can report it on this web page: Map (highway-iams.uk)</p> <p>The Canal Project</p> <p>A Senior Engineer from Transport and Countryside at West Berkshire has been engaging with representatives from Sustrans, Greenham Trust and the Canal and River Trust about improving the National Cycling Network route 4 (NCN4).</p> <p>Jehona has now updated the Transport and Countryside team that the Canal is a priority project for the Hungerford Town Centre steering group. With this, it has been suggested that it might be possible to bring forward an accessibility</p>

	<p>upgrade to the Hungerford canal-side and encourage visitors and commerce, drawing in money not only from Greenham Trust but also other sources.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Project discussion</p> <p>The Town Hall</p> <p>Alistair Fyfe gave a presentation on some potential options for a piazza-type space in front of Hungerford Town Hall. These options considered how many car parking spaces would be lost through the project.</p> <p>The members of the group voted on option B as the most preferable, which included losing four car parking spaces outside of the Town Hall to create a piazza space, however not ruling other options out.</p> <p>The group decided that further consultation with the public is needed, and this would be done when they have more of an idea of the project scope.</p> <p>The group would like to commission an external consultant to do some drawings that they can then use to consult residents on.</p> <p>Action: The group want to understand if the area outside of the Town Hall is adopted highway and if so, what options there are.</p> <p>The Canal</p> <p>Action: To provide the group with some further details of the area surrounding the canal, with some photos to give a better understanding of the existing condition. By defining the improvement areas, it will help with the specification of the project.</p> <p>The group are now going to look to define an area and talk to contactors who have done similar projects to get an idea of the cost and next steps.</p> <p>Action: To find out the Sustrans standard and the Canal and River Trust standard regarding the tow path.</p> <p>The group can then pull all this information together giving them a broad scope and an idea on what the project might cost.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The group are considering adding a high-street representative, which they would like to discuss further in the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: The group have identified unauthorised signage on a conservation building in the town centre and would like to understand what can be done about this.</p> <p>The next steering group meeting is scheduled for the 14th of March at 6:15pm.</p>