

## Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>6 September 2022</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>TCWG: Market Town Co-Ordinator Update</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Becky Reid, Market Town Co-ordinator</b>

### Purpose of Report

1. To provide a final report on the work and action taken since 26 July 2022.

### Update

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

- 2.1. This group last met on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 to review progress taken. This was prior to the Full Council meeting that agreed a change in role for the MTCO to a new 'Environmental Project Officer' (EPO) role. A final meeting will be scheduled to wind down this working group.

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

- 3.1. Many of the partnership projects delivered with 21stCt and Thame Green Living will be continuing as they fit within the work of EPO. Currently these include:
  - Air Quality Monitoring. Being led by Tom Knowles with support from the Asset Manager
  - Development of a communication strategy to help start to engage more of the community in getting involved in delivering GLP action – either on an individual basis or by getting involved with projects
  - Limited support of the Thame Drive Electric event being run on 10<sup>th</sup> September
  - Scoping a 'Thame Green Badge' to get businesses, community groups and individuals involved in delivering GLP actions – the role the MTCO would have played supporting businesses in this will transition into the EPO role seamlessly.
  - Taste of Thame: this will change in focus with the EPO focusing on food miles and food waste. There is a good team of volunteers working on this so expected that this will not take the time and effort it did in its first year and therefore be something the EPO can continue to support.
  - Thame Outer Circuit roundels being installed
  - Thame Inner Circuit roundels being installed
- 3.2. Some pieces of work are currently uncertain about whether they continue being delivered next year. These include:
  - Thame Art Crawl: The event for 2022 will continue to be delivered. After this it will be reviewed. Unless there is able to be a shift in focus to either use the event to raise awareness about shopping local to support the environment, it is difficult to see how it can support the work of the EPO going forward. However the new volunteer team may be able to run this with minimal support, allowing the EPO to continue to play a much smaller role. To be discussed and decided following this year's event. But currently getting website ready for 2022 event and confirming venue/artists matches.
  - Volunteering Opportunities coffee mornings/evenings. There will be an annual volunteers fair on 3 September 2022. Following this event there will be a review of the monthly meetings and we will be exploring the potential of them becoming a Charity/Community group networking event that incorporates the VEWG – see below. This is still to be decided.

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

- 4.1. Now that it has been confirmed that the MTCO role will come to an end, we will be exploring transitioning this group to become part of a wider, monthly charity/community groups

networking event. For this to happen a meeting will be arranged with the member of VEWG to discuss the idea further. Assuming they are in agreement a trial period of 3 – 6 months will take place. This will open up the group to new members to offer monthly meeting that offers the opportunity of networking as well as some ‘masterclass’ training. This will allow invited guests and members of the group to share best practice, supporting others to learn more. This could include fundraising, how to get the most out of social media, ways to play your part to become more sustainable, etc. The EPO could continue to play a role in this group as it will provide the perfect opportunity to get the word out further. This group would benefit from having a Councillor involved who would be prepared to host the meeting.

## 5. Public Arts

- 5.1. The Public Art Working Group and how it reports will be discussed at the final TCWG with a proposal being submitted on how it should continue and where it should now report to. The EPO will continue to chair it as it fits within the aims of the GLP.
- 5.2. Art leading Wayfinding: work is still at fabrication stage (a 10 – 12-week process) for the trail from Thame Meadows to the town centre. Permissions are still being finalised for installation.
- 5.3. This has been named ‘The Peculiar Pot’ by a child from St Joseph’ RC Primary School.
- 5.4. A meeting will take place with LPRA on 8<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the design elements for the estate with an aim of making some final decisions.
- 5.5. Once installation costs are confirmed a new proposal will go to the PAWG for the Lea Park work and then on through relevant channels for approval and permissions.

## 6. Thame Markets

- 6.1. First Street Food Market on 29th July with AyStreatmeet ended up being cancelled due to sickness, but the second event took place successfully on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022. This element of the MTCO work will continue to be delivered and we are in process of working out where within the Community Services Team it will fall.

## 7. Other MTCO work

- 7.1. Another meeting arranged with the Museum to support them in how to use social media took place. This will transition to the ‘Charity Buzz’ meeting above if the proposal goes through
- 7.2. Future ideas/tasks still to be progressed
  - New version of Leaflet No 6 (walking and cycling).
  - Thame Outer Circuit event idea – to be led by new Communications and Events officer

## 8. SODC

- 8.1. Eco Business Fair continuing to be held in the Town Hall - 23rd February 2023
- 8.2. Starting conversations with SODC and OCC about installation of additional EV chargers in Thame. They are keen to progress and we want to ensure that we get the best result for Thame

## 9. Statistics

- Monthly Business Newsletter: 308 subscribers, up from 306
- Weekly Town Council Newsletter: 1280 contacts, up from 1276.
- Town Council Facebook page: 1646 followers up from 1611 at last report.

### Action Required:

- Would someone be willing to take on the role of hosting a monthly ‘Charity Buzz’? Limited work – 2 hours monthly (regular day tbc); starting the group on time; keeping people to time in any networking sessions; introducing ‘master class’.