

# Dorset Council Grant for Market Area Enhancement

## Working Group Meeting

Working Group Chairman: Cllr Colin Stevens

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 5:45pm

in Woodhouse Gardens

## NOTES

### In Attendance

Cllr Colin Stevens (Chairman)  
Cllr Sheila Chapman  
Cllr Alan Cross  
Cllr Hugo Miéville  
Cllr Yvonne Miéville  
Cllr Terry Clarkson

Town Clerk  
Operations Manager  
Nicci Brown  
Roger Carter  
Mickey Westwood

### 1. Apologies

Cllr B Quayle  
Cllr Maggie Putt

Cllr S Hitchings

### 2. To review and finalise instructions for officers regarding the proposed public meeting, including agreement on the meetings content

Cllr Stevens, as Chair of the working group, mentioned the suggestion of adding the proposals to the Town Assembly meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in Woodhouse Gardens so that any interested parties can come along to the public meeting to receive an update and ask any questions.

Cllr H Miéville asked if it was necessary to hold the public meeting when the proposals have been widely promoted and Roger Carter suggested it would be a positive move to extend consultation in this way.

Cllr Stevens suggested carrying out the six-month trial and then an additional consultation and Roger added that the stallholders should be included in that consultation to find out if footfall has increased for them.

Cllr Y Miéville made the point that opinions will vary on several factors, such as weather and time of year, which need to be considered.

To conclude, it was agreed to include an update agenda item on the market area enhancement in the Town Assembly agenda and to inform the businesses in the town centre, as well as the public. It is hoped that we will have received a response from the Dorset Council by then on a way forward. The format will be the display of slides (removal of tables).

3. **To consider suggestions of an electronic notice board in the Market Place and receive approximate costings**

It was agreed to recommend to council to purchase the following item for display within the Shambles and out on the Market Place during market days, using funds from the Market Area Enhancement budget line.

Digital display totem DKS-LED43, 43 in display, Android 11, Black, 610 mm x 450 mm x 1.810 mm, TecMaschin

★★★★★ (40)

TECMASCHIN

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Excellent  
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4. **To agree on information to submit to the Dorset Council**

The Town Clerk raised concerns about the bollarded area being held within the proposed area, because the hirers require access to the building for unloading/unloading, etc. but Cllr Lacey-Clarke advised that it is better for the Town Council to include the bollarded area because there is no agreement over that Dorset Council land. It doesn't mean that the bollards must be removed, which is what the DC proposal shows.

Cllr Stevens suggested asking the Dorset Council for a 12-month trial instead of a six-month trial, so we can monitor the usage and value throughout a full year and all the seasons. If not, it is suggested that we request it is opened in the Spring/Summer 2026 for the six-month trial period.

The consultation responses and summary are to be sent to the Dorset Council, along with general proposals on usage and timings, via Jan Britton. It is hoped that a response will be received prior to the Town Assembly in April.

5. **Any other business**

Cllr S Chapman suggested having a food truck on Friday evenings.

6. **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting will be arranged once we have feedback from the Dorset Council.