

Dorset Council Grant for Market Area Enhancement

Working Group Meeting

Working Group Chairman: Cllr Colin Stevens

Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 12:30pm
in the Council Chamber

NOTES

In Attendance

Cllr C Stevens	Cllr H Mieville	Cllr R Holmes
Cllr S Hitchings (by telephone)	Andy Reynolds	Jon Goodenough
Ross Ingham	Linda Scott-Giles	

1. Apologies

Cllr L Hitchings	Cllr L Lindsay	Cllr S Chapman
Cllr A Cross	Cllr R Carter	

2. To consider the Dorset Council Proposal Report – Blandford Market Place Public Realm Enhancements

Cllr Mieville asked that we get confirmation if DC is likely to withdraw the offer if a new council is appointed at the forthcoming elections.

Town Clerk to confirm if the Town Council has have received the £70,000.

It would be helpful to gauge the response of retailers especially those directly affected by the different proposals.

Cllr S Hitchings wants it to be an obvious area open to pop-up cafés, buskers, events and local groups.

Confirm if there is a charge from DC if the trial period is made permanent.

Look at different options for layout i.e., bring parking forward, put focus on area outside Corn Exchange 'the apron', which would be a far better layout and would not look so obvious when not in use. This would also mean that DC loses fewer parking spaces and

the Town Hall is framed instead of the area being slightly disjointed from the central focus. It would also work better for Town Council events.

Cllrs would prefer bollards that drop down. Planters would be better in fixed positions due to the weight and difficulty in moving.

Councillors and staff discussed the options for management of the area, and if it would need a manager. It is relatively straightforward taking bookings for the space, but it is the day to day management and promotion that would be more time-consuming.

Contact relevant officers at DC to gauge their flexibility, Town Clerk to contact DC's Haydn Price.

3. Any other business

Ross Ingham agreed to provide a quote for the consultancy of the action plan/proposal required by DC.

4. Date of next meeting

Referral and update to full council meeting on 27th November 2023 before another meeting is arranged.