

Littlehampton Town Centre Businesses / Retailers Workshop

Wednesday 17 January 2024, 18:00 – 20:00
The Manor House, Church Street, Littlehampton BN17 5EW

NOTES

Attendees

Business:

LTC Cllr Freddie Tandy, Elise Bicknell, Kieran Gibbins, Sofia Chittenden

ADC Miriam Nicholls,

David Wride from Survival 2 Significance 1-1 Retail Support contract with ADC.

Matthews Associates (MA) – Simon Matthews, Sandra Grant, Ben O'Connor

Welcome: Cllr Tandy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Overview: Simon Matthews and Ben O'Connor gave an overview of the State of the Nation and Littlehampton investment and interventions.

Roundtable: The following topics were discussed during the session.

| No | Topic | • Notes | Action |
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| 1. | Engagement & Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The latest town centre newsletter was the best yet, well laid out with easily readable sections. • Nothing has come forward since the Traders Partnership closed, which met 4 times a year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL – encouraged to read the Town Centre Strategy & Action Plan |
| 2. | Vacancies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Strategy front cover features Boots, which is closing • What is the strategy when a shop is closed? • Can shop fronts be decorated? • This needs to be consistent and need to be pro-active when it is known that a shop will close. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA/BOC – Obtain Boots estates team contact details and enquire re intentions and see if shop front can be dressed when vacated. |
| 3. | Anti-social behaviour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs, crime and alcohol are major barriers to trade, needs to be considered as priority action, accepting that it's not the only priority. • The Menu Restaurant – rubbish still left from bin fire over the summer, new paving replaced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADC/LTC – report feedback from both sessions to Littlehampton Action Team and Town Centre Action Group. • MN – look into rubbish removal and paving replacement |

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| | | <p>with concrete and continued anti-social behaviour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business wardens up to April 2023, funded by Coop and PCC. • Police have Shopwatch radio. • Police presence is inconsistent. • Anti-social behaviour is getting worse and High Street needs activity to help address ASBO. • Sussex Police need to monitor CCTV when ASBO reported. • PCC and PSCO availability is important and this needs to be re-stated to the Police at next Action Team meeting. • Arun DC passed legislation to regulate HMOs in certain areas. | |
| 4. | Landlords | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding easing of landlord terms and short-term leases. | |
| 5. | Rustington | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rustington didn't exist in the 60s and has a single landlord. • Rustington draws trade away, but this has always been the case | |
| 6. | Footfall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readability from car parks and seafront, and to and from the train station • Traffic directed to Rustington from Bognor Regis, no entry to Littlehampton from Arundel. • Waymarking and parking strategy is important. • Pedestrianisation has caused lack of footfall. • Christmas lights viewed as positive. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA – arrange to undertake a signs audit • MA/BOC to look up case studies to see how pedestrianisation is tackled elsewhere |