



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 21st September 2021

For immediate use

Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group begins wider consultation

Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group (RTCNPG) commenced its wider public consultation phase with a stall at Retford Market on Saturday 18th September 2021. As part of a planned programme of public appearances and communications, RTCNPG will be appearing on some of the Retford markets on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and Retford Christmas Market, over the next two months.

Formed from residents, elected representatives and people employed in the designated Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Area, RTCNPG has been working, since its official recognition by Bassetlaw District Council in March of this year, on draft proposals to discuss with the public.

The RTCNPG team will also be offering to meet with community groups based in, or with a significant interest in, the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Area.

The draft proposals for consultation, which seek to build on the current strengths of Retford are:

Vision

By 2037 Retford will be a safe, healthy, accessible and sustainable town centre, supporting people of all ages, which is proud of its heritage buildings and attractive to businesses as a place to grow and prosper, providing a range of employment sites and premises.

Retford town centre is future facing, the home of people and businesses looking to reduce their carbon footprint. The value of natural assets will be enhanced and extended and investment will create a rich mix of shopping, leisure, sports, health, cultural and social facilities making Retford town centre appealing as a place to live, learn, develop, work and spend quality leisure time.

Community Objectives

CO1 To create a plan for the regeneration of the town centre that attracts and retains visitors to spend time and money in the shops, cafes and cultural centres.

CO2 To bring more vitality to the town centre by supporting environmental enhancements to public spaces that create a more attractive shopping area, including improving and extending the green corridors (parks and water ways) and adding eco corridors across the town centre.

CO3 To support the growth of a vibrant day time and evening economy (cafes, pubs, restaurants and other leisure facilities).

CO4 To create an exciting environment that makes it attractive for micro, small and medium sized businesses and shops to locate and flourish in the town by ensuring that there is a range of suitable sites and premises.



CO5 Improving the accessibility of the town by providing a network of connecting movement corridors that are safe, accessible and direct for walkers and cyclists into and across the town centre. In so doing encouraging opportunities for workers, residents and visitors to be healthier and more active.

CO6 Improving the legibility of the town, so users can easily, directly and safely find the businesses and services that they need.

CO7 To protect and improve the wide range of community facilities (including health care provision) in the town centre to ensure it can meet the growing need of an ageing and expanding population.

CO8 To seek innovative solutions that will accelerate the town to Net Zero by 2035 by promoting the use of solar energy on roofs as part of a community energy scheme and boosting the provision of electric charging points.

CO9 To ensure that all new development is designed to a high standard and that it 2 a) respects the materials style and layout of the historic town centre (where applicable) b) enhances the existing character of the town centre.

CO10 To protect and enhance the historic character of the town centre by implementing a range of improvements to the historic buildings and spaces as part of a wider improvement program with the marketplace as the focal point.

CO11 To expand the role of Retford town centre as a focus for trade and the exchange of knowledge and learning that combine to mutually support the growth of the local economy and provide a range of job opportunities for local people.

CO12 To ensure that the housing stock is of a high quality, varied and suitable (in terms of type and tenure) to meet the needs of existing and future residents.

CO13 To encourage developers to work with the Neighbourhood Forum before planning applications are submitted so that developers can produce schemes that ensure the most positive benefit for the town

The process for constructing a Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan will take place over the next 18 months completing with a referendum. Once adopted, developments within the Neighbourhood Plan Area will need to conform to the plan requirements and supporting activities will be progressed in parallel with the appropriate organisations.

A website, social media and other communication facilities will be developed over the next three months, as funding becomes available, to enable as many people as possible, with an interest in Retford Town Centre, to be able to take part.

Notes for Editors

Photograph attached is of the RTCNPG stall at Retford Market on Saturday 18th September 2021.

Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group is administratively supported by Retford Business Forum and Bassetlaw District Council but remains an independent group with its own constitution and Management Committee.

For further information, please contact Rick Brand at rickbrand@hotmail.com or 01427 891376.