

Halesowen Area Committee – 28th June 2006

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Town Centres Management

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Halesowen Area Committee on the service provided by the Town Centre Management Service in relation to Halesowen Town Centre.

Background

2. Town Centre Management supports the six priority topics of the Council Plan 2005/6 which are Caring, Regeneration, Environment, Safety, Learning and Quality of Service Matters and is committed to it's delivery. This will be achieved by listening to what people say, responding to what local people tell us, be accountable for performance and providing value for money. The Town Centre Management service strives to meet all the council priorities through the service and support it provides to the local community.
3. The information contained in this report provides a summary of progress made by the team since the last report presented on the 22nd March 2006.

Town Centre Infrastructure

4. Since the last report the cleaning and replacement of damaged paving in Somers Square has been completed. Further to this quotes are currently being sought for the replacement of a handrail stolen from a column in the square.
5. Details are currently being finalised for the commission of repainting town centre lamp posts and bollards. Resources have now been allocated for the purchase and installation of additional permanent and removable bollards at the Great Cornbow and the corner of High Street and Hagley Road for the control of vehicle access to pedestrianised areas.

Events in Halesowen town centre

Whitsun Week

6. During Whitsun Week, the Town Centre Management Team brought into Halesowen:
- Fair rides in Somers Square on Wednesday 31st May 2006
 - Beacon Bouncy Castle on Thursday 1st June 2006
 - Circus Workshop, Face Painter and Fairground Organ with support from the Keepers of the Fountain- Friday 2nd June 2006

During June 2006

Victorian Street Fair 10th June 2006

7. Town Centre Management has worked closely with the organiser Christopher Todd from the Rotary Club of Hasbury and Cradley to ensure this annual Halesowen charity event takes place once again.

French Market 16th & 17th June 2006

8. At the time of writing this report The Town Centre Management Team is in the process of finalising the arrangements to bring a new French Market into the town centre once again on a trial basis to take place on the Friday and Saturday 16th and 17th June 2006. The French Market owners Marche De France have a very good reputation nationally and have recently held their first French Market in the Borough of Dudley in Stourbridge in April 2006. A verbal update will be given at the Committee meeting.
9. As reported at previous Halesowen Area Committees opportunities to pilot other types of markets in the future will continue to be explored in partnership with Halesowen Town Chamber provided local businesses are not adversely affected.

Halesowen College Entertains 29th & 30th June 2006

10. As a result of last years brief but well received concert students from Halesowen College Performing Arts Department return to perform for two day this year in Somers Square to entertain with a variety of music, song and dance.

Future Proposals

Halesowen in Bloom

11. Halesowen in Bloom is currently in the early development stage and an application to Halesowen Area Committee for financial support to assist with the launch has been made by the Halesowen Chamber of Trade. A broader Halesowen in Bloom partnership is being now being set up.

Halesowen by the Sea!

12. Halesowen by the Sea as an event is scheduled to take place on Saturday the 12th August 2006 and is currently in early development stage. At this moment the following ideas are being explored are as follows;

Events may include:

- Beach: Sand sculpture, sandcastle competition
- Mermaid / Merman of Halesowen contest (childrens competition)
- Aquariums on display
- Sea sound : Waves crashing played on pa system
- Entertainment : Marquee playing live music (Oh I do like to be beside the seaside) surrounded by deck chairs. Stilt walkers
- Entertainers: Punch and Judy, live singing groups, face painters, “animal” balloon makers. Small fairground rides.
- Donkey rides
- Punch and Judy

Further possibilities may include:

- RNLI bring boat into town allowed to collect on day.
- Royal Naval Cadets band
- Royal Navy recruitment van
- Ice cream / candy floss sales van on site.
- Halesowen sticks of rock
- Talk with swimming baths for free admission for the day.
- Pull in local library in e.g. story tellers, competitions?
- Bunting

Finance

13. The activities discussed in this report are delivered from existing budgets.

Law

14. The promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area is supported by Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

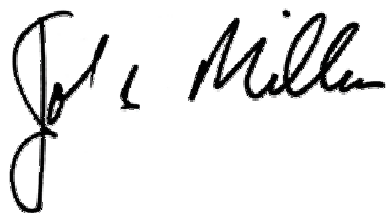
Equality Impact

15. A primary role of the Town Centre Management Service is to encourage inclusivity amongst all sectors of the community, including the needs of children and young people.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:-

16. The contents of this report are noted and that reports are provided at future meetings on the activities of the Town Centre Development Service.



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List of Background Papers

None