

**COUNCIL MEETING – April 3rd 2018 – ITEM No.  
Ottery St Mary Regeneration Project Group report.**

First of all I would like to recognise the extraordinary work the previous Chairman and members of the Working group have done since their formation.

At the meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> of March reports from the following projects were made:

1. Conservation Area
2. Heritage Centre
3. Town Centre Infrastructure

As a result of those reports the following proposals were made which I hope the Council would give due consideration:

1. Authorise the Chair of the RG to send a letter to DCC requesting the new street lighting along Paternoster Rod to be changed so is in line with the softer lighting within the rest of the Conservation Area and Town Centre.
2. Authorise the Chair of the RG to send a letter to agencies such as the Business Forum, Coleridge Society, and Heritage Society as it was considered there is a need for co-ordination between those agencies to enable the best use of resources and to avoid duplication.
3. The Town Council is requested to invite the South West Federation of Museums and Art Galleries (SWFED) to attend a meeting in order to brief the Council on the scope of Heritage Centres. **During the meeting the Mayor indicated this would have to be a special meeting rather than forming part of a standard Council meeting.**
4. The Meeting expressed the expectation that the Heritage Society would report back regularly to the Town Council on its planning and progress concerning the Heritage project. **I indicated that this already had been foreseen in the Risk Assessment and that I would suggested to the Town Clerk to periodically invite the Heritage Society to report to the Council.**
5. The Meeting considered that the Hospital issue was outside the immediate action remit of the Neighbourhood Plan, and should therefore be referred to the Town Council which has some political influence.
6. Further to the meeting with County and District representatives last July the need is to follow up the projects which were discussed by requesting the two Councils to clarify their level of support.
  - a. Relocation of bus stops and enhancement of the Square (County Council)
  - b. Management of traffic flow in Silver Street (County Council)
  - c. Buffer zone for pedestrians on the south side of Hind Street (County Council)
  - d. Road signage for through traffic in town (County Council)
  - e. Relocation of bus stops and enhancement of the Square (District Council)
  - f. Rationalization of signage within OSM (District Council)
  - g. **With the relocation of the Post Office to Mc Colls store the need for a Pedestrian crossing to be provided in Yonder Street. (County Council)**

As Chair of the Regeneration Working Group I would like to request from our District Councillors a more active role in achieving the objectives set not only by the Neighbourhood Plan but by the Regeneration Working Group. It is of my understanding that it is almost impossible for us as individuals working hard in the group or even for OSM Town Council, to carry the wishes of the people of the town when it comes to deciding allocation of regeneration money for Ottery or simply bringing Ottery to the top of the list as Sidmouth, Budleigh and Exmouth have done, if we don't have a strong representation within EDDC. After the local elections in 2019 Ottery will have a third District Councillor and I hope this will increase representation at District Council level.

The Working Group and I would like to have answers to questions such as: how much EDDC and DCC have allocated for the Regeneration of Ottery, when will we have a positive answer to our requests or simply a hint of when any of the above will take place. Could you give me Cllr. Giles or Cllr Faithfull as you seem to be members of the Regeneration Working Group, those answers? We need those answers to plan and to establish working priorities. We need you to fight our cause; otherwise we are simply wasting our time.