![Berwick upon Tweed Town Council logo]

Berwick upon Tweed Town Council

Local Services Committee   05 July 2021   Appendix B

Report of Town Clerk

Marygate

Access Public

Background

1. Committee previously considered a request from council for improvements to be made to Marygate.
2. Council has previously considered wide ranging proposals concerning changes to traffic management and the use of Marygate. Northumberland County Council (NCC) have indicated that their position, that there is no appetite for such changes, is unlikely to change in the short term.
3. On the other hand, NCC have indicated that there may be an appetite for small scale environmental changes; broadly speaking, NCC is more interested in place management rather than place making projects, and remains sceptical about tactical urbanism.
4. We note with interest that other town councils (e.g. Shrewsbury) are actively lobbying principal authorities for place making activity that is transformational; a motion recently passed at Shrewsbury described their ambition as being to create a 'mini Holland' via a transformative approach to traffic management; this is undoubtedly place making, not place management.
5. Officers will be taking forward the scheme to improve wayfinding, whilst incorporating pandemic related lessons into the scheme. This is however a renewal project that fits firmly under the guise of place management.
6. NCC remain committed to the use of planting to improve the town centre, (see proposals later to replace the water bowser used for watering) and there is scope to be both more inventive, and more sustainable, in how planting is addressed, but, again, this is management.
7. Officers are happy to pursue a more activist role on council's behalf, but would strongly recommend consultation and a wider public debate before council goes further with place making proposals relating to Marygate.

Recommendation

1. That committee provide guidance to staff.

Author	GD	Town Clerk sign off (if required)	GD
Checked by	SC	Finance Officer sign off (if required)	N/A