

# BERWICK TOWN CENTRE

Town Council Working Groups Notes

# Scope of work

- To work together with outside agencies and individuals aiming to enhance the economic viability and appearance of the Town Centre.

# The Town Centre

- Castlegate – the retail and service area between the Railway Station and Scotsgate
- Marygate – the primary retail area between Scotsgate and the Town Hall, including Golden Square, the upper end of West Street (above Easter Wynd) and Walkergate as far as Hatters Lane.
- Bridge Street Quarter, including lower West Street and the Maltings Area / Eastern Lane
- Walkergate (beyond Hatters Lane), Chapel Street, Church Street and the Parade.
- Hide Hill, Woolmarket, Sandgate and Silver Street

# Timescales



## Short Term

- 0 – 9 months
- Focussed on deliverability



## Medium Term

- 9 months to three years
- Focussed on viability and available funding



## Long Term

- Three years upwards
- Focussed on strategic change

# Short term issues

Issue	Detail	Priority
Cleanliness of street surfaces – all areas including impact of gull population	See next slide	1
Condition of street furniture	Staff reviewing condition of bins – cleaned on same schedule as bus shelters	1
Condition of utility cabinets – NCC units for street trader use	GD to follow up SC's recent email to B Hodgson	1
Edges of paving adjacent to buildings		
Planting and planting schemes		2
Condition of building / safety – Church Street	GD to follow up with buildings regulation – email sent – awaiting response	1

# Cleanliness of street surfaces

Issue	Detail / Solution	Priority
Gull impact - faeces	Discussions underway with NCC re power washing / improved cleansing	1
Surface cleanliness in general	Review underway of local services agreement	1
Self reporting cleanliness tool for councillors	In development for councillors	1
Chewing gum	Not a large issue – await more data	2
Smoking refuse / debris	Monitor situation around bins / locations where smokers gather e.g. Greggs and opposite Golden Square (north side)	2

# Short to medium term issues

Issue	Detail	Priority
Market management and impact	Visually dominated by fast food vendors, sometimes taking up disabled parking bays. Lack of quality goods - food, drink, garden products, plants.	1
Condition of surfaces and buildings – seagull impact	Damage from nesting and roosting, guano accumulations above ground floor on details and ledges	1
Impact of street trading and street traders	Associated to market issues as managed by market manager who prioritizes income	1

# Short to medium term issues continued

Issue	Detail	Priority
Highways street furniture – condition and maintenance	Clutter and general air of poor maintenance and lack of care – see next slide for solution	1
Building maintenance – redundant utilities kit on building exteriors	Not just a Berwick issue – problem nationwide. Generally perceived as a landlord / occupier problem – may get worse with FTTP roll out.	1
Empty properties	Visual improvement is needed pending longer term resolution (eg. Art displays, window designs)	1



# Medium to long term issues

Issue	Detail	Priority
Traffic priority – pedestrians versus vehicles	Need to consider impact of Maltings works but offers strongly favour tactical urbanism and high quality temporary changes where required	3
Public realm layout and usage	Requires long term vision	3
Pinch points – Golden Square, Church Street, Walkergate	Requires new solution in long term	3
Re-purposing of redundant buildings	Retail to residential above ground floor, creation of indoor market or business incubator units.	1

# Town Centre Partnership?

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## Local government

- NCC Local Services, Highways, Regeneration, Housing and waste
- Berwick TC - events and non statutory services
- NoTCA

## Property and land

- Advance Northumberland
- Development Trust
- Better Berwick
- Freemen Trust
- Karbon, Bernicia
- Landlords with more than three properties

## Business and trade

- Retailers and businesses via CoT or other forums – Town businesses forum?
- Large scale tourism providers
- Chain retailers
- Arts and culture businesses e.g. Maltings

# Agencies and partners

