ENCLOSURE 6

TOWN CENTRE WG REPORT August/ September 2022

We met on the 31st August and discussed the following matters:

Station Road

Following on our last report to the Council we arranged a meeting with WCC Officers attended by the Clerk and Cllrs Spencer and Coker to discuss the paving and furnishing of the stopped part of the Road if the stoppage becomes permanent in January. Unfortunately it would seem likely that the County will not have funding available to pave the area and would therefore rely on the current arrangements. At our request however they provided us with round figure estimates of the likely costs. To complete the pavement in Warwick Road and pave the stopped area in Station Road similarly would cost approx. £52,000 or alternatively this could all be merely levelled at cost of approx.£42,000.00. Since this is all part of the highway such work would have to be commissioned by WCC. .

We suggest that further discussions take place with WCC to obtain more details of the finishes and firmer costings so that the Council may consider what action to take and whether this is an opportunity to use CIL funding

Post Office Window

The frontage of the Post Office is the least attractive one in Warwick Road and enquiries have therefore been made to see if they would be prepared to allow us to decorate it as we have other windows The indications received are that they would allow this. A suggestion was made that a profile of the Queen similar to the ones used in Abbey End during the Jubilee was appropriate for the PO. An estimate has been obtained provide and fit these images of £304 ex vat. The provision of this type of image found favour but concern was expressed as to this whether was appropriate in view of Her Majesty's health. What is actually used would however be subject to the Post Offices approval.

We suggest that further enquiry be made of the Post Office as to what image they would accept and subject thereto the purchase of images be delegated to the Clerk and Chair of Finance.

Replacement of Planters

Whilst the Planters are a matter for the Council and Kenilworth in Bloom it is suggested that it is time for the planters to resume their previous positons subject to allowing for any obstruction of the foot way and also insuring that the Council Welcome plaques are positioned facing the traffic on each side of Warwick Road. It should also take into account the position of seating to encourage their use

Christmas Celebrations.

The Group expressed the hope that the Light Switch on in High Street and the Town Centre revert to separate nights to allow both occasions to enjoyed without a clash. Assuming that these events would be at the end of November it was further suggested that the Buy a Present weekend and Christmas Market should be separated from them and take place as last year on Saturday 10th December. More detailed arrangements and costs will be brought to a later Council. Subject to

appropriate consents the market would take place in Talismans Square and we would endeavour to reserve three stalls for Council nomination and will be complimented by the Christmas Shop Window Competition

Beautiful Benches

The number of decorated benches is increasing and the Group thanked Arts for the effort they have made. A list of additional benches is to be prepared so that a check can be made to ensure that decoration of these can take place.

Borrowell Well

The trough adjacent to the ancient well In Borrowell Lane, is also immediately adjacent to the footpath and as such has a wooden fence/Guard in it for a safety purposes. This was placed there temporarily many years ago, but it has now broken. Whilst on the outskirts of the Town Centre area we have made enquiry and a replacement wooden guard would cost approx. £400.00 .We are happy to make further enquiry to reach a solution regarding its replacement or pass it on to whoever is appropriate but a solution should be found.to protect a feature which forms part of our history

Street Pride

This subcommittee is separate from the Group, but it was noted that Mr Peter Hallam is retiring as our local County Council officer and will be replaced by a Mr Michael Newham who is a resident of Kenilworth. It would be a great advantage to have him on our Street pride group and he will be invited to join it as and when fully in post in