

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.

NUNEATON TOWN DEAL BOARD

Date: 4th September 2020
From: Director – Regeneration & Housing
Subject: Consultation Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Board with information relating to the results of the first stage consultation process which ended on 28th August 2020.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board note the report.
2.2 That the Board authorise a Phase 1a consultation to target particular stakeholders.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 In order to comply with the requirements of the criterion attached to the Towns Fund, Board approved the procurement of a Communications and Engagement consultant. Advent Communications were awarded the contract and have worked proactively to develop an identity for the Towns Fund initiative, market the consultation message across all stakeholder groups and ensure a high profile within the local press.
- 3.2 A new website, MyTownNuneaton and a Facebook page have all been established to form the foundation of the consultation, given the restrictions on face to face meetings and gatherings due to Covid restrictions. Advent has worked closely with Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) to ensure the consultation has reached as many community groups as possible. Additionally, the consultation has been promoted by;
- The Federation of Small Businesses;
 - Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce;
 - Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership;
 - Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Growth Hub.

The first stage consultation commenced on 14th August 2020 and ended on 28th August 2020, however, responses received up to 1st September were also accepted.

4. Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 During the course of the first stage consultation process, 281 suggestions were received from 91 respondents. A breakdown of categories and number of responses is attached at Appendix A.

- 4.2 The consultation responses have been grouped in relation to the intervention themes within the scope of the Towns Fund. The most popular ideas centred around;
- Improvement to the road system and access to the train station;
 - Improvements to all types of leisure facilities / night-time economy;
 - Improvements to cycling & pedestrian opportunities;
 - Reduction of car parking charges and Non Domestic Rates to attract large retail chains.
- 4.3 There were no identifiable responses from businesses / education, however there were a number of suggestions received in relation to providing skills and apprenticeship opportunities. There was only one response that mentioned any form of digital activity.
- 4.4 There were a limited number of responses criticizing the focus upon Nuneaton, as opposed to other areas of the borough such as Bedworth and Bulkington.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 It is extremely encouraging to note the level of suggestions that were received from the community. However, the lack of responses from business and education along with the lack of suggestions related to the digital agenda, merit further consideration.
- 5.2 It is proposed that a Phase 1a consultation be undertaken to target businesses and education, and to specifically ask the community for their thoughts on the digital agenda. Discussions will be undertaken with Advent Communications to carry out this short phase communication.
- 5.3 Whilst the negative responses received in relation to the focus on Nuneaton were few, it is likely that there are higher numbers within the community who share those sentiments. It is therefore proposed to undertake further communication that will focus upon how this initiative will benefit the borough as whole.

Local Transport	63
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Local Transport	
Bus Service	8
Car Parking	11
Connectivity	3
Cycle Infrastructure	11
Electric Vehicles	1
Pedestrian Infrastructure	5
Road Infrastructure	12
Train Service	10
Tram Service	2
	63

Arts, Culture & Heritage	118
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Arts, Culture & Heritage	
Art Displays	5
Art Venue	14
Community Spaces	9
Heritage Promotion	14
Leisure Facilities	58
Museum	1
Parks & Gardens	14
Town Promotion	1
Youth Centre & facilities	2
	118

Skills & Enterprise	21
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Skills & Enterprise	
Enterprise	12
Skills Development	6
Work Spaces	1
Youth Skills	2
	21

Digital Connectivity	4
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Digital Connectivity	
Connectivity	2
Communication	1
Interactive Heritage	1
	4

Urban Regeneration, Planning and Land Use	40
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Urban Regeneration ...	
General Comments	2
Environment	3
Facilities	4
Green Space	3
Historical Buildings	1
Housing	7
Library	2
Markets	7
Riverside	6
Town Centre General	5
	40

Other	35
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Other	
General Comments	23
Retail	12
	35

Total	281
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281
