



## WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

**Notes of a meeting of the Wellington Town Centre Working Group held on Tuesday 20 March 2018 at 5.30p.m. in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

**Present:** Councillor Shepherd (Chairman)

The Mayor (Councillor James), Councillors Lithgow and Russell-Cairns.

Richard Coupe – The Edge, Sharon Davis – Interiors and Flowers, Keith Wheatley – Around Wellington, Adrian Hooper, Sally Hooper – Mad Dog.

Dr. Joanne O'Hara – Wellington Heritage at Risk Officer

Also present:- Claire du Ruyter – Cheese and Wine Shop

**Apologies:** Councillors Govier and Emma Ransom-Bellamy (SNOB)

Greg Dyke – Town Clerk, Gill Croucher – Assistant Clerk

The Chairman explained that the main aims of the Group would be to investigate vacant properties, support retailers and improve town centre amenities. The Council were very limited in what it could actually do but it was hoped to make environmental improvements to the town centre to make it a target destination.

It was suggested that this overall aim would be helped by successfully introducing small improvements and building on them.

Discussion took place on initiatives taken by other towns, the possibility of making visitors more aware of the facilities on offer, introducing themed events (such as Arts Weeks) and promoting tourist attractions such as the Monument.

The empty shops ratio was felt to be pretty healthy for a town of this size. A certain number of empty shops would always be necessary to enable a healthy turnover. There was also a distinction to be drawn between empty shop premises and the large banks that had been built for an era that had now passed. There were a number of shops that had been empty for some time and it might be helpful to find out if there was any reason for this.

The size of the town was continuing to increase and it was suggested that new residents on new developments be surveyed with a view to promoting the facilities available on their doorstep.

Car parking was discussed and the point was made that Wellington has three car where it was cheaper to park and closer to the town centre than most of its competitors.

**Next meeting**

**5.30 p.m. Wednesday 2 May 2018, in the Council Chamber**

The meeting ended at 6.55p.m.