

Somerset West and Taunton Council and partners have been working hard to support the reopening of our high streets with grants, advice, guidance and public realm changes to help businesses reopen safely.

We understand the huge challenges you are facing with adapting your businesses within the guidelines to ensure you can keep your staff and customers safe. Many of you have taken the opportunity to adapt your business, offering something new and having more online presence.

We are now looking at what we can do to help town centre businesses to fully recover and grow back stronger from the impact of COVID-19, and how together we can shape our high streets.

Last year we listened to your views on how high streets in our District should be shaped and we will continue to use this information. However, the world for business has changed considerably over the last few months and we want to know how we can help you and how we can work together.

As a valued business, we are very interested in your views and ideas on

- Shaping our high streets – what they should look like and what type of ‘offer’ they should have for businesses, shoppers, visitors and residents post COVID-19.
- Support and Advice for businesses – what do high street and town centre businesses need to adapt, recover and flourish post COVID-19.

We are holding some virtual events to gather your thoughts- please use the Eventbrite pages below to book your place- joining instructions will be sent nearer the time:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/113356065042> (Wellington) 21st July

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/113362223462> (Minehead) 22nd July

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/113362881430> (Taunton) 23rd July

We are particularly interested in feedback from our three main town centres - Taunton, Minehead and Wellington and our neighbourhood retail centres - Wiveliscombe, Watchet, Dulverton, Dunster and Porlock.

If you are unable to make these events and have any views that you would like to share with us please email them to Openinghighstreets@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

We will gather your ideas and views and report these back to you. We will then work with you to further shape our plans and packages of support that SWT could offer.