

**Open Spaces & High Street Re-Generation Working Party Update & Next Steps re: Griffin Alley**

**1. Purpose of the Report:**

To review the work of the Open Spaces and High Street Re-generation Working Group and recommendations re Griffin Alley and to agree to progressing suggested improvements.

**2. Review:**

**Places Already Improved**

The Open Spaces and High Street Re-generation Working Group has already progressed the work in Market Lane, which has been successful and encouraged the outside 'café' culture feel to the area, and with more people using the space. The Birdcage Walk installation of the Athelstan 1100 Thrones has also been very popular, and an added attraction for people to visit the town.

**Other Work**

Other work to support the High St, includes the ongoing Graham Soult High St analysis, online promotions/ events.

**Griffin Alley**

Recent work includes the working party's engagement with local retailers and service providers, as well as the Chair of the Town Team in respect of Griffin Alley, which is currently not well lit, not well signposted (between the Cross Hayes and High St) and the appearance is not overly appealing in respect of attracting visitors and shoppers.

**3. Improvements to Griffin Alley:**

After previous meetings held in the Alley itself, by members of the Working Party and engagement with nearby retailers, service providers and the Chair of the Town Team, these are recommendations for improvement.

**Signage**

To replace the large sign between the Sue Ryder Shop and E & S with a sign showing the High St (perhaps up to the Triangle) and indicating the main visiting spots and areas to shop. Currently it is not intended to show individual shops, due to the longevity of the sign, but still to be determined. To provide signage from the Cross Hayes through Griffin Alley to the High St and Vice Versa. Design of all signs to be referred to the Signage Working Party to align with their work.

**Bin Housings**

To procure several bin housings, subject to final written agreements with owners and their confirmation of maintenance.

**Walls**

With the agreement and co-operation of owners to arrange for the following: A one off spring clean of the lower walls and edges of the pavement to remove algae/ moss. To touch up with cream paint (after priming), the relatively small parts of the lower wall without significant repair, to minimise the visual impact of the damage. To paint a black 'band' along the bottom edge of the wall to match the wall on the other facing side of the alleyway. To assist the owners with connecting to and making enquiries with Wiltshire Council Planning in respect of any repairs.

**Hanging Baskets/ Malmesbury in Bloom**

To arrange to have three hanging baskets, with suitable planting with brackets fixed to walls, subject to owners agreement, to become part of the Malmesbury In Bloom coverage and to water and maintain these as part of our regime. This is in the context that we are improving an 'open space' and link from the car park to the High St rather than enhancing individual businesses. The businesses in the Griffin Alley area will be advised of our donation scheme and hopefully they might wish to take the opportunity to support the extra floral displays in that way.

## **Lighting**

To investigate and assist with the installation of more public lighting, similar to the two lamps already provided by Wiltshire Council. Currently Griffin Alley is poorly lit after dark, including winter mornings and afternoons. We understand that this causes concern for residents and visitors to walk through to and from the car park to the High St and therefore discourages growth of our night time economy. There has also been ASB in the alley and theft of items such as door wreaths etc, due to the lack of visibility.

## **4. Financial Implications:**

Funding of £3,000 has already been approved in principle by this committee, through the grant application to Wiltshire Council from their High St Generating Activity Programme and this needs to be spent by mid March 2025. Whilst in the longer term, some of the options in point 3. might incur further expenditure, the improvements shown above (apart from Lighting) are relatively low to moderate in cost to achieve and anticipated to be within the £3,000 allocated. There are also funds set aside for improvements in the next tranche of the grant 2025-2026.

## **5. Proposals:**

**a)** To request the Committee to note the progress made by the Working Party so far and its suggestions re improvements to Griffin Alley.

**b)** To authorise the spend of up to £3,000 from our Wiltshire Council High St Generating Activity Programme Grant awarded for 2024 to 2025 on the improvements outlined in point 3. The work to be costed, arranged and paid for under the direction of the Town Clerk, by mid-March 2025.

**Cllr Kim Power (Ch.) Open Spaces and High Street Re-generation Working Group**

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025