**Newbury Town Centre Steering Group**

**31st of October 2023**

**Present:** Andy Moore, Sam Robins, Martin Colston, Ed Cooper, Richard Farley, Andrew Marmot, David Seward, Warwick Heskins, Jessica Jhundoo Evans, Jo Wakeman, Jehona Hansell, Anna Doherty

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| 1 | **Welcome**   1. Introduction from the new chair of the group Andy Moore from Newbury Town Council. | **Actions** |
| 2 | **Update on the Wharf Project**  A verbal update on the Wharf projects progress was given.  West Berkshire Council funded the closure of the Wharf carpark for the Mo and the Red Ribbon event hosted by the Corn Exchange and 101 Outdoor Arts. This saw around 3,000 people gathered at the Wharf to see the story of Mo demonstrating the potential of this space. |  |
| 3 | **Pedestrianisation Update**  The new administration is looking into whether it is possible to deliver pedestrianisation by extending the current pedestrianised zone, which currently runs from 10am to 5pm, to run until midnight and will affect Northbrook Street, Bridge Street, Bartholomew Street (north), Mansion House Street and Marketplace.  The group will be updated when we know more.  Once we know more, we want to work closely with the BID, Newbury Town Council and others to try and make any potential trial as successful as possible from the beginning. |  |
| 4 | **Discussion on Prioritisation**  The steering group began a discussion on the Masterplan’s proposals.  Vacant Spaces:  The High Street Rental Act has recently been passed. WBC are being briefed on the implications of this act and then we will be able to feedback to the group with any opportunities it may presents.  Support to business owners on Cheap St & Bartholomew Street:  There have been discussions with the BID and business owners on Bartholomew Street on using this area to promote heritage and independent businesses. By rebranding this area, it could help to better integrate the area into the town centre.  The Canal:  There was a suggestion that the tow path between the monkey bridge and swing bridge needs resurfacing. |  |
| 5 | **Any Other Business/Stakeholder Updates**  Next meeting tbc. |  |