



Summit Successes

Working together for a better town

Environmental Improvements Working Group

The Andover Summit was organised by Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) and held in November 2012. The Summit brought together a range of interested parties to agree a set of priority actions to improve the town. The actions were then taken forward by a set of working groups. The Environmental Improvements Working Group looked at actions to enhance the town centre environment including planting, street furniture and improvements to the upper High Street.

The members of the working group are:

- **Peter Phillips**, Landscape Architect, TVBC (Project Lead)
- **Simon Cramp**, Hampshire County Council
- **Louise Ellison**, The Dress Boutique
- **Kevin Harrington**, Parks and Countryside Manager, TVBC
- **Rachel Bell**, Andover Framing
- **Dan Smyth**, Street Scene Manager, TVBC
- **Councillor Zilliah Brooks**, Andover Town Council and TVBC
- **Annie Tomlinson**, Transport Planner, TVBC

The working group undertook two community street audits to investigate issues raised at the Summit relating to environmental improvements in Andover town centre. The following actions have been agreed by the working group and are now being developed.



New planting

- A scheme will be introduced in spring 2014 to provide more hanging baskets in the town centre. It is proposed that this will be a shared responsibility scheme with local businesses.
- More planting will be provided in the town centre, including the introduction of trees to the High Street and Bridge Street.



Street furniture

- Phase 1 will see the Council remove almost 30 items of redundant street furniture to create a less cluttered town centre with easier access.
- Commence cleaning and refurbishing street furniture.
- Improve maintenance regime for street furniture to ensure it remains clean and in good condition.
- Undertake an audit of existing cycle racks to establish if they are best located for convenience and maximum usage, and re-siting of those that are not.
- Produce guidelines including colour schemes and furniture styles to ensure improvements to the town are consistent.

Town centre decoration

- Work with the Chantry Centre to develop a way to create banners, or paint the large concrete sections of the Chantry Centre.
- Enhance the Old Town Jail so it becomes more of an attractive and well maintained feature.
- Introduce bunting and/or flags to the High Street.



Other recommendations

- Work with Hampshire County Council to ensure a good standard of repair and appropriate materials are used for maintenance work on paving in the town centre.
- Support the creation of an online directory of businesses in the town centre, which can be used by visitors and local businesses to help them navigate the town and signpost people to other stores.
- Liaise with landlords and agents to see whether 'to let' signs can be placed flat against the wall of the building rather than jutting out from the building which creates a disorganised appearance.



For further information on the work of the Andover Summit please visit our website www.testvalley.gov.uk/andoversummit or call us on **01264 368000**