

APPENDIX A

At the working group meeting on 25th October 2018, in order to facilitate discussion and enable a “fresh” and wide ranging approach to planning for the future, the following three questions were posed to Councillors:

- What do you like about Tewkesbury?
- What don't you like?
- What would you like to see?"

These open questions stimulated a broad discussion of Councillor's hopes, concerns and aspirations for the town as well as the role that the Council should play in this, as follows:

What do you like about Tewkesbury?

- The beauty of the area, love looking at the town from green spaces, even when flooded, views,
- Historic buildings
- The pace of life, friendly, small
- A fantastic, interesting place
- Diverse groups
- Calm, green, relaxing
- Geographical location, easy to get to other places, proximity to motorway
- Independent shops
- Events, e.g. medieval re-enactments

What don't you like?

- Traffic in the high street, congestion
- Not enough trade, empty shops (though there aren't as many as some other towns)
- Footpaths – there are “mini-steps” which some people trip on.
- Poor signage
- Lack of communication (between various groups in the town), each group has their own agenda, they don't necessarily appreciate the work/efforts of the Council, the various groups do not “come together”
- High parking charges (or perception of same)

What would you like to see?

- Development of Spring Gardens (it is anticipated that it will be a mixed use development)

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- Covered market hall with space for performance
- Public art
- Town Team
- Provision for youth, promote inclusion
- Active travel, to include connectivity to villages
- Local brewery (though there may be one already?)
- Space for outdoor activities, e.g. play facilities
- Closer relationship with Borough Council
- Increased partnership working with local organisations and groups, formation of a town forum, enhanced role of town council in the community.
- Recognition in the community of the work that the Council does and the significance of its role
- Promotion of tourism, events all year round
- Reinvigorate work on Neighbourhood Plan

Summary

It was clear that councillors had a great fondness for the town, especially its beauty and distinctive historic buildings, and there were few things that they actually disliked. However, although it is apparent that there is strong sense of community in Tewkesbury, a desire was expressed for closer communication, cooperation and partnership working between the various authorities and groups and for the Town Council to play a leading role in promoting this. Additionally, Councillors were concerned that the population of Tewkesbury did not understand or fully appreciate the hard work that the Council does for the benefit of the town.

Councillors also wanted a close and positive relationship with the Borough Council.

Additionally, much work had been done on the Neighbourhood Plan, and there was strong a desire to move forward and to overcome identified challenges.