

**District Centres Task and Finish Group – Monitoring the Implementation of the Group’s Recommendations
Information for consideration at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 8 July 2009**

Recommendation	Approved by the Executive Committee and Council?	Amended?	Were budget/capital bids approved (if relevant)?	Officer responses (What action has been taken in response to this recommendation?)
<p>1. An Improvement Fund be established to provide a continual source of funding for improvements in Matchborough, Winyates and Woodrow District Centres, subject to further work being undertaken by Officers to develop the proposed Improvement Fund further.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p align="center">No</p>	<p align="center">N/A</p>	<p>The establishment of an Improvement Fund would require Council approval in the same way as a budget bid. The total income from the District Centres is around £195k. The leases for the commercial properties in the Centres do contain clauses to allow the Council to levy a service charge which could contribute to an Improvement Fund.</p>
<p>2. The Council consider entering into arrangements with local companies to sponsor local bus shelters and roundabouts in order to generate further income that could be used to make improvements to the three centres.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p align="center">No</p>	<p align="center">N/A</p>	<p>Officers from Legal Services have arranged a meeting with the Acting Director of Environment and Planning and with Landscaping Officers to discuss this proposal in</p>

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				<p>more detail. In particular, discussions will focus on the potential risks to the substantial contribution that the Council currently receives from Worcestershire County Council for our maintenance work on roundabouts. There is also an issue around the ability to simply go ahead with a named firm when an open procurement process has not taken place.</p> <p>The Legal Services Manager is due to provide a further update on the outcome of these discussions in due course.</p>
<p>3. Officers to work with the landlord of the Old Sticky Wicket Public House in Matchborough to facilitate the creation of a pub garden.</p>	<p>Only partially.</p>	<p>Yes – altered to the following: As Officers have pursued the creation of a pub garden at the Old Sticky Wicket Public House in Matchborough as far as is practicable, no further action be taken by Officers subject to the</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Property Services have spoken and written to the Landlord on several occasions. Due to the current economic climate, and the need to apply for planning permission for the change of use, the Landlord is reluctant to</p>

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		landlord taking active steps to pursue this matter in conjunction with the Council.		proceed at present.
4. A free 24 hour cash dispenser machine (ATM) be installed at the Woodrow Centre, outside the Costcutter supermarket.	No – it was rejected on the basis that the proposal was impractical.			No further action required.
5. Where there is scope the Council work with the Probation Service to deliver specific enhancement works in Matchborough, Winyates and Woodrow District Centres.	Yes	No	N/A	Following a staff turnover in the Probation Services this December we are currently negotiating our first community projects with the new staff team. The first two projects have been contracted. Should these be successful further projects could be nominated across RBC assets in the future.
6. The Council consider allocation of £500 for basic	Yes	Yes – The Executive	A revenue bid	

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<p>work on upgrading the security of residential properties in Winyates District Centre; this funding to be used to finance work by a Community Support Officer and a skilled manual worker / joiner / labourer.</p>		<p>Committee amended this recommendation by adding the following to the end of the recommendation “(Capital or revenue?)</p>	<p>was submitted in 2009. This bid was treated as a low priority. Not approved.</p>	
<p>7. The Council approach What’s Your Point community group to carry out painting and decorating works on the commercial shutters in the District Centres. A budget of £5,000 should be made available for these works. What’s Your Point to work with the commercial tenants to agree a colour scheme or appropriate design for the shutters.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>Yes – altered to the following: The Council approach What’s Your Point community group or any other community group to carry out painting and decorating works on the commercial shutters in the District Centres subject to a budget bid being made for the £5,000 required for these works and What’s Your Point / another group working with the commercial tenants to agree a colour scheme or appropriate design for the shutters.</p>	<p>A revenue bid was submitted in 2009. This bid was treated as a low priority. Not approved.</p>	
<p>8. Officers to arrange for the purchase of 20 road signs at a total cost of £4,500, directing traffic from the main arterial roads to the relevant District</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>Yes – altered to the following: A budget bid be made for the</p>	<p>A revenue bid was submitted in 2009. This</p>	

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<p>Centres. The signs must include “Shopping Centre” as part of their wording.</p>		<p>purchase of 20 road side signs at a total cost of £4,500, directing traffic from the main arterial roads to the relevant District Centres. The signs must include “Shopping Centre” as part of their wording.</p>	<p>bid was treated as a low priority. Not approved.</p>	
<p>9. A capital bid is made for 2009/10 to undertake resurfacing and remodelling works within the Winyates centre in two key phases:</p> <p>Phase 1: resurfacing the bus lane and either footpath immediately left and right of the bus lane.</p> <p>Phase 2: remodelling of the footpath, entrances to the Winyates Pub and the old toilets.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p align="center">No</p>	<p>A capital bid was submitted in 2009. This bid was treated as a medium priority. Not approved.</p>	
<p>10. The sections of the bus only lanes that travel through Matchborough, Winyates and Woodrow District Centres be maintained as bus only routes.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p align="center">No</p>		<p>Property Services are not pursuing a change to the bus only routes at these centres.</p>

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<p>11. The Council investigates the relative costs of either contracting out or buying machinery to remove chewing gum from the paved surfaces in the three District Centres.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes – altered to the following: The Council investigate the relative costs of either contracting out or buying machinery to remove chewing gum from the paved surfaces in the three District Centres, including the sharing of the service with another local authority, specifically Bromsgrove District Council.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Officers have trialled several types of equipment and have identified a preferred method of gum removal. The system removes gum using low pressure hot steam which emulsifies the gum and removes it from the paved surface without the need for a high volume of water. It does not remove the infill between bricks or pavements and there is minimal hazard to the public. This means that small work areas can be cordoned off and dealt with as required.</p>
<p>12. The Council redevelops all of the remaining three district Centres in future and that the Council considers Woodrow Centre as the next centre for redevelopment after the redevelopment of Church Hill District Centre has been completed.</p>	<p>Not really</p>	<p>Yes – altered to the following: The Council awaits the outcome of the redevelopment of the Church Hill District Centre prior to any further decision being made on redevelopment of the remaining District Centres.</p>		<p>Property Services are including redevelopment break clauses in all new leases in the District Centres to facilitate possible future redevelopment.</p>