

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 18 July 2023

Title: Community Plan Results

Purpose of Report

For Members to receive information contained within the Community Plan.

Recommendation:

Members to note the report and resolve to set up an Action Plan working group to present ideas and thoughts at the Members Briefing Day in October 2023.

Report:

1. An opportunity to carry out a community consultation was offered to Ilminster Town Council in conjunction with SALC, Somerset Council and Smart Communities in October 2022. The project was fully funded through Somerset Council.
2. A questionnaire was created with the assistance of Smarter Communities that would allow the Town Council and other organisations to be able to use an evidence base for the furtherment of a variety of projects in Ilminster using the communities' thoughts. Online training was provided to officers and assistance was readily available to help with this project.
3. The promotion of this community consultation was carried out through a variety of mediums, in order that as many sections of the community were approached and given an opportunity to submit their thoughts as possible. Copies were available at various places in Ilminster in paper format as well as being online. The consultation was open from 18 November until the 9 December.
4. On the 18 November 2023, the cells in the Magistrates Court were opened for members of the public to view. Officers and some Members assisted and encouraged people to complete a questionnaire either online or using traditional paper copies. These were then entered on to the electronic database. This was followed up with a stall at the Thursday market on the 1 December which was hosted by council members and supported by officers.

5. The data was collected by Smart Communities, along with providing training to officers for future consultations, the outcomes are attached at **Appendices 14A** and **14B**.
6. As a result of the consultation a Draft Action Plan (**Appendix 14C**) has been produced for Members to consider. Members may wish to add, amend or delete aspects of the plan in preparation for the Members Briefing Day 21 October 2023.
7. In order to do this, a small working group is proposed that will meet to discuss the thoughts raised in the Community Action Plan and that have been suggested in various meetings throughout the year. In order to maintain a balance across the council it might be appropriate for this group to be made up of the Mayor and Chairs of each of the committees, with their Deputies acting as substitutes if one can't make it.
8. The outcome can then be fed into the budget with not just the 2023-24 budget in mind, but also the following years.
9. Members to note the report and resolve to set up an Action Plan working group to present ideas and thoughts at the Members Briefing Day in October 2023.

Mark Tredwin
Town Clerk
July 2023