



Malmesbury & St Paul Without Residents' Association

Hon President : The Mayor of Malmesbury

Malmesbury Town Council

Town Hall

Malmesbury

2 February 2021

Dear Sirs

I am writing on behalf of the Malmesbury and St Paul Without Residents' Association.

At its meeting on 11th January the Association discussed the future of the High Street which naturally is of great concern given the effect of Covid 19 but more fundamentally the change in shopping habits to online which has been accelerated by the pandemic.

Visitors and tourists to the Town make a vital contribution to the Town's economy. The busier summer months can help businesses weather the quieter months and, in this respect, it is in local residents' best interests that the Town attracts plenty of visitors.

However, at the meeting, there was considerable concern expressed about the general appearance of some aspects of the Town. The Association is aware that much is being done to attract visitors, but it is key that when they visit, they find an attractive and well-maintained Town.

There are some specific issues of concern listed below, in no particular order of priority, which need addressing. It was suggested that there should perhaps be an audit of the Town Centre and a program for ongoing maintenance/ improvement prepared.

- o The metal crested bins have several layers of paint peeling off and look neglected and unkempt
- o The notice boards at the bottom of Abbey steps are often dirty with algae and there is a finial missing
- o The Market Cross is starting to look neglected and dirty
- o The finger post and directional arrows in the Market Cross need repainting
- o The paving slabs in the High Street are in an extremely poor state- we note that there are yellow markers on several broken ones (presumably there is communication between Wiltshire Council and MTC on this matter?)
- o The Town Council noticeboards both on the Town Hall and by The Gant are dirty and information is not kept current

The Association wishes to acknowledge the great work the Town Council does on Malmesbury in Bloom. The planters and hanging baskets significantly improve the appearance of the Town Centre in the summer months and the installation of new public toilets is also a great asset. Also, it is recognised that Covid has been a distraction from many of the usual activities that the Town Council might undertake, however, the issues above pre-date the pandemic by some considerable time.

With regard to the Market Cross, any restoration/cleaning is no doubt an expensive undertaking, but it is suggested that this matter is timetabled and factored into the MTC Business Plan.

The Association would welcome a response to these specific matters as given travel restrictions Malmesbury has the potential to attract a lot of UK tourists this year.

Kind regards

Keith Maslin
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