

Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group progress update

Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Planning Group (RTCNPG) is now completing the first phase of public consultation about the potential elements of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Retford Town Centre Area. The response from the public has been excellent so far with many helpful suggestions put forward. This phase of consultation continues until 22nd March 2022 and further input to the plan would be welcomed.

The designated Town Centre Area was increased during 2021 to include the North West Bridgegate area and leaflets were distributed to all properties in the area to inform the residents and businesses, and invite their participation in the Planning Group.

The plan has addressed the themes of the green agenda, health and accessibility, heritage, education, and the future of the high street. The following objectives have been constructed for consideration during the consultation:

- To create a plan for the development of the town centre that attracts and retains visitors.
- To support environmental enhancements to public spaces that create a more attractive shopping area.
- To support the growth of a vibrant day time and evening economy.
- To create an environment that makes it attractive for micro, small and medium sized businesses and shops
- To improve the accessibility

Information about the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the Retford Business Forum website (www.retfordbusinessforum.org.uk/RTCNPG) and any comments should be sent to chair@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk.



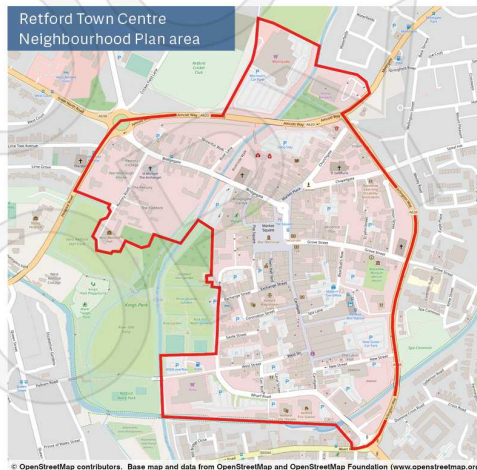
of the town for all.

- To improve the legibility of the town to help people find their way around.
- To protect and improve the wide range of community facilities in the town centre to ensure it can meet the growing needs of an ageing and expanding population.
- To seek solutions that will accelerate the town to Net Zero by the end of the current planning period (2037) by promoting the use of solar energy, enabling cycling, improving biodiversity and wellbeing through enhanced green spaces, and delivering better recycling and waste management.
- To ensure that all new development is designed to a high standard and respects the style and layout of the historic town centre and enhances the character of the town centre.
- To expand the role of Retford Town Centre to support the growth of the local economy and provide a range of job opportunities

for local people.

- To ensure that the housing stock is of a high quality, varied, and suitable to meet the needs of existing and future residents.
- To encourage developers to work with RTCNPG before planning applications are submitted so that they can produce schemes that ensure the most positive benefit for the town

The areas most mentioned during the public consultation so far have been: Movement / Transport; Retail, Hospitality, and Business; Built Environment and Public Realm; Safety; Housing; Green Spaces and the Environment; and Activity, Events, and Tourism.



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RETTFORD TOWN CENTRE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Public consultation on the first phase has been carried out over the past four months with a great response and some very helpful ideas – thanks to all who have taken part so far

VISION

By 2037 Retford will be a safe, healthy, accessible and sustainable town centre, supporting people of all ages, which is proud of its heritage buildings and attractive to businesses as a place to grow and prosper, providing a range of employment sites and premises.

Retford Town Centre is future facing, the home of people and businesses looking to reduce their carbon footprint. The value of natural assets will be enhanced and extended and investment will create a rich mix of shopping, leisure, sports, health, cultural and social facilities making Retford Town Centre appealing as a place to live, learn, develop, work and spend quality leisure time.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

The Neighbourhood Plan will establish planning policies for Retford Town Centre that will shape development up

to 2037. It will be used to determine all future planning applications in the Retford Town Centre Area. The Neighbourhood Plan should incorporate the collective wishes and aspirations of the residents, property owners, businesses and stakeholders in Retford Town Centre.

CALL FOR SITES

Part of the process is to identify properties and land in Retford Town Centre which have the potential for development for a range of purposes e.g. housing, retail, public green spaces etc. If acceptable sites can be found, then the Neighbourhood Plan can propose appropriate development. RTCNPG needs to compile a comprehensive list of all potential development space. If you own land or property with the potential for development or know someone who does, please contact chair@retfordbusinessforum.org.uk for a short questionnaire by 25 March 2022. Once the list is established, there will be an independent assessment to determine which sites are the most suitable to accommodate the developments wanted in Retford Town Centre.