

Dowell Street Corner Refurbishment Project

1. The deputy Mayor and town clerk recently met with representatives of the Thelma Hulbert Gallery who have for some time been looking to develop a project with artwork in Honiton.
2. This coincides with previous discussions that Cllr Sheridan-Shaw and the clerk have had with the Scouts who have been maintaining the area, about making the wall more presentable and safer.
3. This project has been discussed in the past with various members with the intention of creating a Honiton mural that would incorporate the Copper Castle Toll Gate.
4. Following the meeting the following project details have been put together.
5. **The aim of the project is to:**
 - redesign a derelict space with sustainable eco-friendly planting and high-quality community informed visual art
 - showcase the heritage of the Copper Castle Tollgate
 - engage Honiton community groups with a collaborative project, creative activity and celebration of heritage
 - bring the beauty of the Honiton hinterland to this site, creating a relief-style mural involving painting, a 3D object, planting and seating.
6. HTC own the land and it would be for HTC to ensure that the wall is repaired and made good. The original Copper Castle Toll Gate (currently believed to be stored by EDDC) would be installed and a mural created behind to recreate the landscape of the toll vista. This is open to artistic interpretation and would be part of the commissioning research and development process.
7. The revived space would also include improving the planting and creating seating. The planting would include biodiverse bee-friendly perennials and possible bug hotels etc. The Scouts would continue to manage the planters.
8. THG would manage the commissioning process and project management of the mural. This would involve a local artist (possibly emerging) to undertake the mural with a community engagement programme. It was felt that it would be appropriate for there to be an open call for Expressions of Interest from artists (to include CV and examples of work) and then the partnership would award one artist the commission.
9. The project could potentially be a pilot to revive other areas of the town centre.

10. The funding would come from the Premier Inn S106 funding, HTC funds and possible alternatives such as AONB Blackdown Hills SDF, local businesses and DCC Locality Budget, Tesco Bags of Help.
11. Once the project has been planned and costed it would be brought to either the Town Management Committee for their consideration and then a bid for funding from the S106 funds would be put to EDDC.

Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw

August 2019