

Porlock and Somerset West & Taunton's High Street Recovery Fund

Dear Traders,

24th December 2020

As you might be aware the committee to deliver the £25k fund, awarded to Porlock from the District Council for High Street recovery, disbanded last week.

Efforts are being made to get the project back on the rails to ensure this money isn't lost.

For this to happen, SW&T have laid out options, one of which is for Porlock Parish Council (PPC) to convene a new committee. Integral to the success of this committee and the effective delivery of the monies, will be the close involvement of High Street traders.

On January 5th there is to be an Extraordinary meeting of PPC to discuss the best way to deliver this fund. We will be presenting a proposal at this meeting to form a new committee and re-consult with the traders.

The outline plan below is very much in its infancy.

It is designed to develop via consultation & dialogue with high street traders and the public, and we would like you to respond on two issues:

1. Your thoughts on the following process, to be used if this proposal is approved.
2. Whether you are willing and able to sit on a new committee.

Early January

All High street traders invited to join a free membership group who's aim is the improvement and promotion of Porlock High Street.

The emphasis will be on short term interventions, that can have the possibility of legacy and comply with the District Council's guidance on the fund.

From this new traders group an executive committee would be formed including 3 or 4 traders, 2 or 3 Parish councillors and representation from other relevant bodies.

A Chair would be elected from within the executive committee to facilitate the meetings and the process.

All official meetings would be held in accordance with Porlock Parish Council standing orders. This would be a combined initiative between the Parish Council and traders and a council representative from this executive committee will report back at the monthly Parish Council meeting.

This process should also give the opportunity to open a channel for dialogue between councillors and traders on all matters.

First week of February

The Executive committee will interpret the aims and objectives of this fund and create parameters for a comprehensive consultation with all Porlock businesses and relevant organisations. The consultation would be carried out on a broad basis but within the set guidelines.

Executive committee would then produce a deliverable Indicative Plan, with timings and fund allocations informed by the consultation results.

All decisions would be made by majority vote of the executive committee, paying reference to guidance from SW&T regarding outcomes.

Traders and the public will be informed of these decisions and be able to input to the developing plan - a stipulation of SW&T.

The new Indicative Plan will need to gain approval from SW&T and the Parish Council.

This fund has the scope to buy in expertise as necessary.

We have been offered the use of established social media platforms (Discover Porlock, Porlock Traders) if needed for promotion and publicity.

The fund needs to be delivered before November 2021 - a year that's going to be far from normal, but should hopefully improve with the vaccine roll out.

Next Steps

Please consider this outline plan and feed back your thoughts to either Will or Duncan, before the 5th January, either by email or phone.

Once the plan has been considered by the PPC and SW&T, we will let you know the outcome.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas, and a healthy & prosperous New Year,

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Stuart Weaver The Big Cheese
(and member of the original Committee)