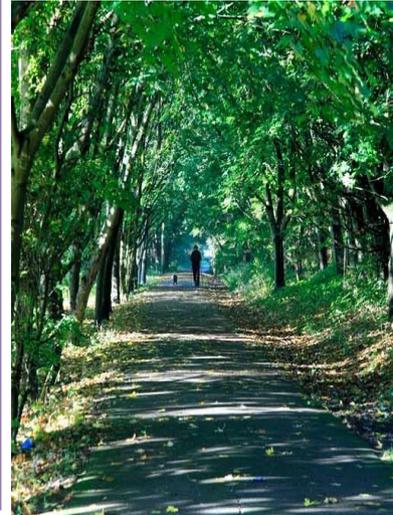


Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan

Public Consultation Report
February/March 2023



Bath & North East
Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

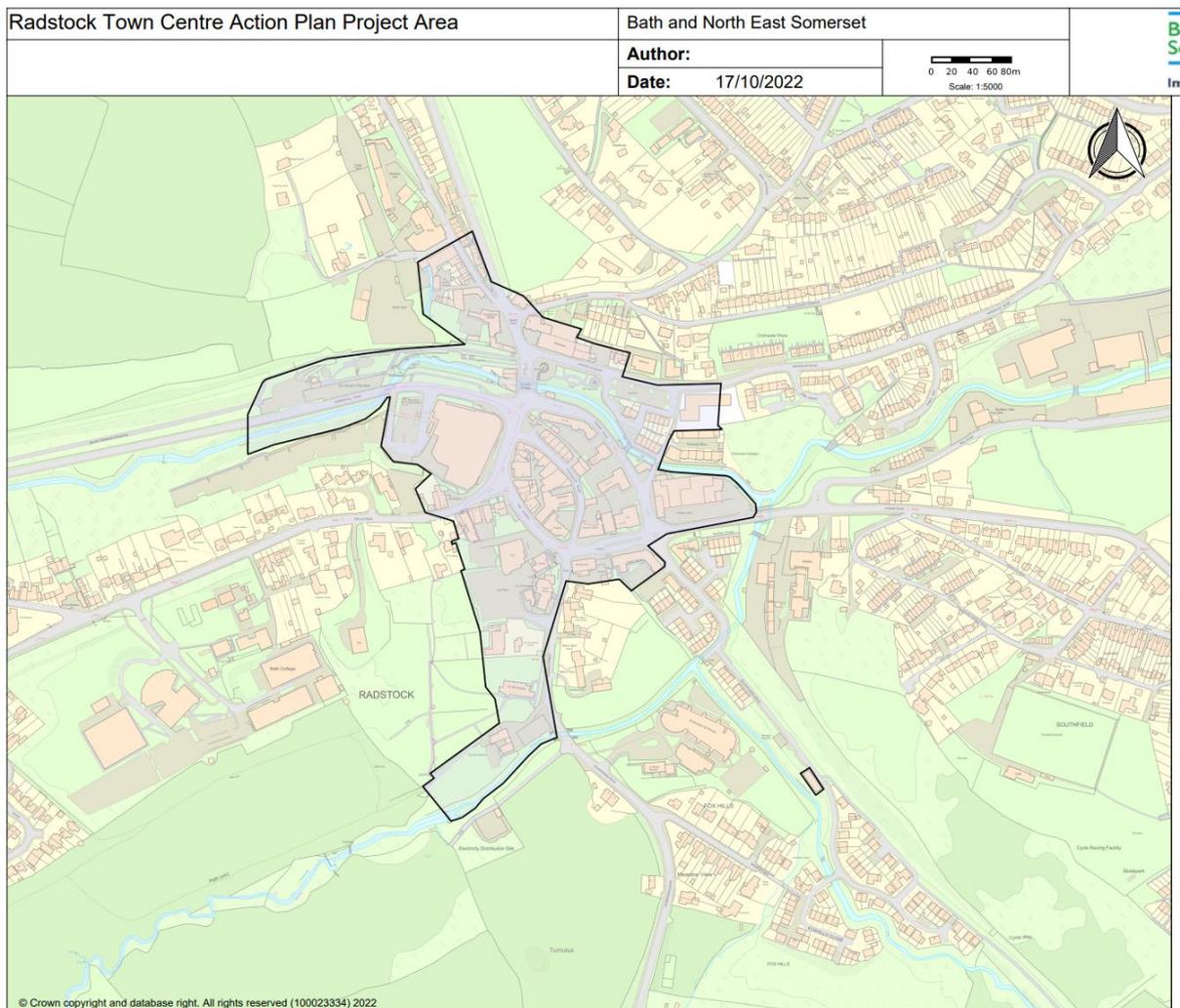
1. Introduction

Bath and North East Somerset Council has been successful in obtaining funding from the West of England Combined Authority Housing Regeneration Enabling Fund to prepare a regeneration action plan for Radstock Town Centre, working in partnership Radstock Town Council, landowners and stakeholders. This will facilitate delivery and access funding to support the infrastructure needs arising in communities including in response to strategic growth.

Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan developed by March/April 2023 and will identify opportunities, agree priority projects & access project funding. The Action Plan will be guided by the existing Local Plan and feed into the new Local Plan.

Housing and employment growth planned for the town and surrounding area means more reliance on the town centre facilities. The focus in Radstock will be on improvements to the vitality and viability of the Town Centre.

Project scoping took place early part of 2022 in partnership with Radstock Town Council, B&NES officers & members & informed engagement that took place in September/October 2022.



Consultation February/March 2023

Further consultation took place in February 2023 to receive feedback on project ideas that were identified in the scoping exercise and feedback from the 2022 engagement. Once again people were informed about the engagement events through articles published in the local media following the issue of a press release.

Comments were sought on projects through an online survey on Radstock Town Council website, on boards that were in the library between 21st February and 7th March, including at a drop-in session on 28th February.

Comments were received from around 40 people and were generally positive, supporting the proposals put forward. Feedback is summarised in the table below:

Project	Comment Summary
Trinity Church Community Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for use of Trinity Church as a community hub which includes a café, concert space, social activities, arts & indoor markets. • Relocation of the library would free up the existing site for redevelopment. • Library must stay in Radstock

Cultural Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for a cultural events programme, branding focused on the mining heritage, Radstock Festival. • Build on the presence of Radstock museum to attract visitors.
Outdoor event space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for weekly markets to attract locals and visitors to the town centre • Investigation of venues that could be used for outdoor events. • More events in the town would bring life to Radstock. • Public Piazza for markets etc. • The introduction of markets/pop up shops need a minimum amount of sellers otherwise it would not attract visitors eg a smaller version of the monthly Frome market.
Tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anything that improves the visual appearance of the town centre and would help to attract visitors. • Greenery softens the traffic noise, absorbs pollution and is beneficial for helping to offset climate change. • Investigate rain garden drainage systems.
Renewable energy solutions & Additional green & blue space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is important due to the climate emergency that has been declared by B&MES and Radstock Town Council. • Support for incorporating renewable energy solutions and retrofitting into Trinity Church and other redevelopment projects. • Green spaces should be developed as a priority for health & wellbeing & to visually improve the town centre.
Parking, signage & streetscape improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several people thought that there wasn't a problem with the parking offer, but others thought that there should be a review. • Loss of the parking at RADCO is an issue. • More longer stay parking for workers • Agreement that there should be an improvement in the pedestrian movement around the town and safer crossings. • There should be priority given to pedestrians & cyclists over cars. • Pedestrianise Fortescue Road • Institute one way system around the centre • Widen pavements
Management of vacant properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement with the suggestion for temporary uses in vacant properties including popup shops & art installations. • Creative use will breathe life into the town centre.
Improve town centre offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the provision of more public toilets and for a better variety of shops so that residents don't go elsewhere to shop.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Streets will continue to suffer until the cost of living and inequality crises are resolved. • Attract a greengrocer
Site improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to preserve vacant and sites with potential for re-use. • Derelict and outdated buildings add to the general feel that parts of Radstock are run down. • Support for improvement to the St Nicholas Old School & the 1960's shops in Fortescue Road as a priority. • Fortescue Road needs desperate refurbishment • Nicer shopfronts don't give consumers more spending money. • Housing/flats must stay above Fortescue Road shop. They improve community feel. • Useful to have footpath to access centre from Church Street car park. • Retain school site as much as possible. • A new business at Leigh House may provide new jobs. • Support for accessible housing in the Brunel Shed • Housing on Old Printworks would be problematic due to poor accessibility. • All of the site improvements need to be considered taking into consideration the changes to the old 'RADCO' site. Too much commercial/offices and there will be no community feel – not enough and there will not be any money in the area to spend on local businesses/services etc