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19th June 2019

FAO Mr Kieran Oliver
Senior Environment & Design Project Officer
Environment & Design Practice
Economy & Growth
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Lewis House,
Manvers Street,
Bath,
BA1 1JG

Dear Mr Oliver

Letter of Support for Heritage High Street Expression of Interest Bid – Keynsham High Street

Keynsham Town Council is delighted to have agreed unanimously at its meeting of 18th June 2019 to be a partner with Bath and North East Somerset Council in making an application for Keynsham to be identified as a 'Heritage Action Zone', and is pleased to support the expression of interest bid to the Heritage High Street Fund for £1.1m

Keynsham has an active and engaged community, with a thriving calendar of events including the third largest free Music Festival in the UK and the annual South West In Bloom competition which regularly results in several gold awards. Our community is committed to supporting Keynsham's transition to a C21st market town, as evidenced by resident's consultations, the previous Town Plan of 2012 and the ongoing production of the proposed Keynsham Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Town Council is therefore eager to provide the leadership and representation on behalf of the Residents to support this aim

Match Funding

The Town Council acknowledges that 'Heritage Action Zone' status requires match funding and commitment from partners. As a sign of its commitment to the project, the Town Council confirms its intention to pledge £10,000 per year from Community Infrastructure Levy receipts for the 4 year programme (2020-24) if the funding bid is successful, resulting in a total commitment of £40,000.

Non-financial support

In addition, the Town Council has pledged to offer the following non-financial support to the project:

- The facilitation (in conjunction with B&NES) and hosting of a dedicated Steering Group for the duration of the project and beyond to ensure the legacy of the project is maintained
- Use of the Town Council buildings for events, workshops and meetings related to the project

- Access to significant background information including historic building surveys, costings, technical assessments and residents consultations etc
- Support in publicising the project and communicating to residents and community organisations: for example use of the Town noticeboards, information sharing via the Town Council website/Facebook (including the events diary) and features in Town Council's quarterly Keynsham News publication delivered to all homes in Keynsham
- Support in publicising the activities and consultation via the existing events programme for the Town
- Occasional desk space for a full time Project Officer in the Town Council office
- Administrative support for the Project Officer
- Support for additional future funding bids/negotiations with landowners to facilitate additional match funding, supporting volunteering opportunities and skills development etc.

In conclusion, the Town Council is pleased to have the opportunity to work in partnership with B&NES to secure funding to protect/improve a valuable conservation area and preserve/develop Keynsham's identity and heritage as a unique and historic market town and hopes the bid will be considered favourably by Historic England.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Cheryl Scott
Town Clerk
Keynsham Town Council