

NP PROGRESS REPORT TO CBPC MEETING ON 2nd MARCH 2020

1. PROGRESS SINCE LAST MEETING

- a. The 2nd Survey on Employment has been launched and so far approximately 50 returns have been made online.
- b. The Business Survey is underway and 30 businesses across the Parish have been asked to participate. This is an online survey only. To date 13 responses have been received.
- c. We have met with a cross-section of 5 or 6 businesses so far in order to complete the survey face to face.

2. EARLY FINDINGS BUSINESS INTERVIEWS

- a. Some businesses, for example, farming struggling to recruit staff with appropriate skills
- b. Employment of local people is preferred but not always possible
- c. Transport to work is a problem for some potential employees
- d. Market for self-catering holiday lets is considered to be saturated
- e. High dependence on broadband
- f. Lack of convenient parking in Abbotsbury for retail outlets
- g. Space restrictions for local shops constraining expansion
- h. Footfall in retail businesses thought to be declining and spend also reducing
- i. Tourism effects on retail clearly important for future sustainability
- j. Tourism numbers on visitor attractions have been adversely affected by poor weather

3. NEXT 60 DAYS

- a. Complete the face to face interviews of target businesses
- b. Review of Survey No3 - Health & Well-being planned for release in April
- c. Analysis of responses from Survey No2 and Business Survey to be completed
- d. Apply for Locality Funding for 2020/2021
- e. Publish revised project plan to take account of lessons learned so far
- f. Prepare draft of Survey No4 on Education & Training
- g. Strategy for reaching young people & families of the Parish to be developed in order to improve their response rates