

Town Centre Highlight Report

September 2013



**Y RHYL
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Aims & Objectives	Current Status:
<p>In the town centre we are trying to create new business and job opportunities by supporting investment in retail, but also by introducing new uses and diversifying the town centre economy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objectives not yet developed and agreed 2. Objectives not yet developed and agreed. 3. Objectives not yet developed and agreed 	AMBER
	Previous Status:
	RED

What's going well?

The LEGO innovation centre on the ground floor of the refurbished Bee & Station was opened on 20th September.

What concerns us and what are we doing about it?

The Minister for Housing & Regeneration in the Welsh Government decided not to invite a second stage bid for Vibrant & Viable Places funding from the Rhyl Going Forward partnership. The Leader of the County Council has submitted a case to the Minister requesting him to reconsider his decision. If the Minister does not agree, there remains an opportunity to apply for part of a sum of £5m which has been set aside for unsuccessful applicants from the 10% most deprived areas in Wales but competition for these funds will be stiff as there are already seven potential applicants for the funds before the unsuccessful areas at Stage 2 of the main application process have been taken into account.

The Town Centre Manager left his post in August. The Town Centre Management Group has agreed that responsibility for delivering the town centre events programme should transfer to the County Council and that the County Council should be the host employer for any replacement post. Members of the Group have agreed to review the role and are looking at best practice from other towns to inform this process.

A task and finish group has been established to progress the development of a town centre strategy in conjunction with the development of a Town & Area Plan for Rhyl.

Outlook

Whilst the Minister's decision about the Vibrant & Viable Places application is extremely disappointing, there remains an opportunity to apply for the funding which has been ring-fenced for unsuccessful applicants and there will nevertheless be an opportunity to enhance this with match funding from the new European structural funds programme commencing in 2014 and deliver a significant investment programme in the town centre. The new arrangements for town centre management and the development of the strategy for the town centre will enable partners to work together effectively to secure a sustainable future for the town centre.

Completed Projects

Bee & Station Office Development
45 – 47 Water Street (external works only)

Committed Projects

A commitment has been made to deliver the project and the necessary funding is in place.

None at this stage

In Development

Feasibility or ongoing development of the project is underway.

Project	Lead Organisation	Comments
49 – 55 Queen Street	DCC/RCS	Initial feasibility for refurbishment of this WG owned property for an Enterprise Centre complete. Consideration of its inclusion in the WG funding bid.
Rhyl Railway Station	Network Rail	Improvements to Rhyl Station currently being worked up by Network Rail. Forecast on site by 2014.

Under Consideration

Some consideration has been given to the project but significantly more work is required.

All the below would be considered for inclusion in the WG funding bid.

Project	Lead Organisation	Comments
Queen's Market	DCC	Possible redevelopment site for mixed use including retail allocated in the Local Development Plan. Planning requested to prepare a development brief as a priority.
Rhyl Town Hall	??	Some discussion about development for performing arts, craft market, etc, but no further progress made.
Vacant Property Scheme	??	Some discussion about a scheme to get empty shops back into use discussed but no further progress made.
Parking Strategy	DCC	Desire expressed by town centre businesses for a review of parking strategy. Some limited progress made in terms of new policies.
Town Centre Street Furniture	DCC	Concerns have been raised about the current condition of the town centre street furniture.

