

RINGWOOD'S FUTURE

EXTRACT FROM STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME



SHORT TERM PRIORITIES (YEARS 1 TO 4) – PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENT

No.	Theme	Key issues identified in the Town Plan	Projects	Committee Action/ Progress Update	Objectives	Short, Medium or Long Term	Facilitating Organisation and Potential Partners
1.	Built Environment	Attractive townscape marred by poor signage. Visitors tend not to find their way through to Southampton Road, the High Street and Market Place. Visitors are not encouraged to call in from the A 31.	1.1 Improve and co-ordinate signage in the town through the Signage Project Group Improve signage from the A31, A338 Produce Parish Maps which also show seating, gradients.	PT&E – Budget Requirement £5,000 included in 2008/09 budget and bid for same in 2009/10. Work in progress.	Visitors will find their way easily and readily about the town, especially from the Furlong Car Park through to the High Street, Southampton Road and Market Place. Footfall will increase in those areas. Increased number of visitors travelling on the A31 will call into town.	Short	RTC (JS) Potential Partners NFDC, HCC, local businesses, New Forest Access For All
		Inadequate and unattractive street furniture	1.2 Working group to audit street furniture over the whole parish Decide on appropriate design(s) Improve, add and co-ordinate where necessary Ensure that seats are added to the town maps	PT&E – possible budget requirement Audit still to do. Preferred seat identified. Ongoing.	Attractive, co-ordinated street furniture that enhances the appearance of the town and that is sited for the maximum benefit of the community. Disabled and elderly will be able to plan their routes around the town with needed rest stops.	Short	RTC (JS) Potential Partners HCC, NFDC, NFAFA, local interested parties
		Unattractive, uneven pavements and poor accessibility in places	1.3 Improve the narrow, uneven pavements. Install dropped kerbs and crossing points where needed	PT&E Work ongoing. Areas identified by Walking & Cycling Working Group and NFAFA. TAP will cover this issue.	Attractive, even and safe pavements which will enhance the street scene, improve safety (by reducing falls) and accessibility in the High Street, Christchurch Road and Southampton Road	Short	RTC (JS) Potential Partners HCC, NFDC, Chamber of Commerce, NFAFA

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		The town centre is degraded by chewing gum on the pavements. Dog excrement, litter and graffiti are problematic in certain areas	1.5 Clean up the town centre and pavements. Work with HCC/NFDC on the litter problem on the A31 to resolve it. Maintain a clean and tidy town by working to change practice through a combination of effective communications and targeted penalties	PT&E To do.	Clean town centre Chewing gum removed from pavements Fewer people throwing litter and gum on the pavements Fewer incidents of dog fouling Less litter on A31	Short and then on-going	RTC (TS) Potential Partners NFDC, HCC, schools, police Local press
3.	Cycleways and Footpaths	Castleman Trailway peters out in the town There are no cycle ways down to Long Lane Poorly maintained footpaths	3.1 Delivery of the quality walking and cycling routes identified by the Walking and Cycling Group Improve and increase the links and the number of cycle ways within the town and out to the New Forest and Dorset Ensure that walking route leaflets are marked as whether suitable or not for the disabled. Ensure that the public are aware of where to address concerns re condition of footpath/cycle ways and act on the information given to keep them in good condition. Put up information boards on the Castleman Trailway	PT&E/RL&OS budget request Work ongoing. TAP will pick up most of issues identified by Walking & Cycling Working Group. To action for next print run of Healthy Walks leaflets Publicity required. Working with HCC to deliver.	Castleman Trailway joined up. More cycle ways in and out of town and linking into the New Forest and Dorset Cycle ways down to Long Lane sports ground Leaflets marked as whether suitable for wheelchair users. Well maintained footpaths and cycle ways Information boards on the Castleman Trailway	Short - medium	RTC (TS/JS) Potential Partners NFDC, HCC, Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society, local interest groups/individuals

ECONOMY

No.	Theme	Key Issues Identified in the Town Plan	Projects	Committee Action / Progress Update	Objectives	Short, Medium or Long Term	Facilitating Organisation and Potential Partners
5.	Housing	Insufficient affordable housing First time buyers who have grown up in the town cannot afford to buy. People moving into the area for work are unable to afford houses.	5.2 Encourage the allocation of additional land for housing use through the Local Development Framework to enable the building of more affordable housing	PT&E Ongoing.	Provide sufficient affordable housing Ensure that there are enough young people in the town to fulfil business needs.	Short	RTC (TS) Potential Partners NFDC
6.	Business Needs	High rents and taxes threaten the existence of small, independent shops. Difficulties of trading in small interiors of listed buildings and obtaining planning permission to alter them.	6.2 Facilitate more retail development Support and encourage more independent businesses in order to maintain the town's distinctiveness and to offer the consumer more choice. Support necessary alterations to listed building interiors to create modern retail space required	PT&E Ongoing.	Ringwood retains a healthy mix of independent shops and high street, national stores which encourage shoppers to shop in town rather than travel to other shopping centres so that the town at least retains its 'market share' in terms of shopping spend. The consumer has a wide choice of shopping. Ringwood is not a 'clone' town. Retailers will have the necessary space to operate in the modern retail environment. An increase in visitors to the town and footfall through all shopping areas.	Short	RTC (TS) Potential Partners NFDC Chamber of Commerce Ringwood Tourism Furlong Centre Management

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		High Street narrow and congested. The number one complaint in surveys.	6.3 Undertake a feasibility study to assess the practicality of pedestrianisation of the High Street and Market Place	PT&E This issue will be picked up in the TAP.	Pedestrianised High Street No more congestion. More pleasant shopping experience Increased footfall.	Short - medium	RTC (JS) Potential Partners NFDC HCC Chamber of Commerce
		'Run down' and 'unsightly' areas of the town	6.5 Upgrade Southampton Road	PT&E Work in progress.	Increased footfall More attractive street more in keeping with market town image	Short	RTC (JS) Potential Partners NFDC HCC
		Shoppers and visitors do not easily find their way from the Furlong to the High Street, Market Place and Southampton Road.	6.6 Support developments that will result in improved and attractive links from the Furlong, into the High Street, Market Place and Southampton Road	PT&E Ongoing.	Improved and attractive links from the Furlong, into the High Street, Market Place and Southampton Road. Increased footfall in those areas. Visitors easily find their way to other parts of the town and feel encouraged to explore and stay.	Short - Medium	RTC (JS) Potential Partners NFDC
8.	Tourism	Lack of sufficient hotel accommodation for business visitors Lack of conference facilities and function rooms locally.	8.2 Invite expressions of interest from 3/4 Star hotels If there is sufficient interest, support the construction of such an hotel	PT&E To do.	Sufficient hotel accommodation in the area for business visitors, as well as holiday makers. Conference and function facilities available locally of a high standard Additional amenities, such as swimming pool, for the town. More day and staying visitors in the town.	Short – medium	RTC (TS/JS) Potential Partners NFDC HCC Chamber of Commerce

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9.	Training and Skills	Local skills shortage Lack of training facilities locally post GCSE 50% of workforce has no qualifications. Lack of availability of non academic training.	9.1 Form a steering group to: Develop post GCSE training opportunities Identify what training is needed and how to deliver it Provide Skills Centre	PT&E/P&F Ongoing – RTC support role only.	Training available locally for skills needed post GCSE. Fewer people travelling out of the town to access training courses. Increase in the skills of the local workforce	Short	Ringwood School (TS/JS) Potential Partners Brockenhurst College. Learning & Skills Council. Train to Gain. RTC

TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

No.	Theme	Key issues identified in the Town Plan	Projects	Committee Action/ Progress Update	Objectives	Short, Medium or Long Term	Facilitating Organisation and Potential Partners
10.	Traffic Management in the town	Illegal parking in the High Street. Traffic congested and at times gridlocked.	10.1 Enforce parking regulations rigorously in the High Street	PT&E Ongoing – NFDC action.	Cessation of illegal parking in the High Street Traffic flows freely through the High Street. Congestion is eased. Safer and more pleasant shopping environment.	Short	RTC Potential Partners Ringwood Schools HCC Police
		Car parking around the schools creates a hazardous situation. Roads around the schools are very congested	10.3 Initiatives to encourage more children to walk to school or come by bus	PT&E Ongoing – support School Travel Plans.	Fewer children are driven to school in cars. More children are walking or cycling to school. Safer and less congested outside schools.	Short	RTC Potential partners Ringwood schools HCC Police

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12.	Public Transport	<p>No buses in the early mornings or evenings around Ringwood or to the neighbouring towns and cities.</p> <p>Such public transport that exists is not affordable for the majority of people, unless they have a bus pass.</p> <p>Cannot access train stations by public transport from Ringwood.</p> <p>Lack of integration of buses with trains.</p> <p>A present there is no shelter for those waiting for a taxi in the Furlong Car Park.</p>	<p>12.1</p> <p>Look at innovative ways to meet the demand for more public transport that is reliable, affordable and meets people's needs.</p> <p>Look at ways of providing a bus service to Southampton Airport Parkway, Bournemouth and Brockenhurst</p> <p>Provide a taxi shelter</p>	<p>PT&E Meeting of all stakeholders to be held in New Year.</p> <p>Project complete.</p>	<p>More regular and reliable public transport.</p> <p>People can travel to nearby towns and cities to access work, training and entertainment.</p> <p>Public transport will be more affordable.</p> <p>Bus service will link up with train stations.</p> <p>Fewer cars on the roads.</p> <p>Taxi shelter in the Furlong Car Park</p>	Short	<p>RTC</p> <p>Wilts & Dorset HCC</p> <p>Private entrepreneurs</p>
13.	Road, pavement and footpath maintenance	<p>Potholes, deteriorating condition of the roads, overhanging vegetation and weeds on footpaths.</p>	<p>13.1</p> <p>Publicise complaints and reporting procedures for these problems</p>	<p>PT&E To do.</p>	<p>Well-maintained and safer roads, footpaths and pavements.</p> <p>Public are aware of the reporting procedure and use it.</p>	Short	<p>RTC</p> <p>Potential Partners: HCC NFDC</p>
14.	Parking	<p>Gridlock in the Furlong Car Park and outside as far as down Christchurch Road.</p> <p>The layout of the Furlong Car Park does not allow traffic to progress straight to the far end. As a consequence there are very long queues on the highways outside the car parks and unnecessary delays in the town.</p>	<p>14.1</p> <p>Change the layout of the Furlong Car Park</p> <p>Take appropriate measures to provide more long stay parking which will accommodate people working in the town and in Bournemouth and those using the National Express Coaches.</p>	<p>PT&E Ongoing.</p>	<p>Traffic will flow freely around the town and queues, delays and gridlock will no longer happen as a result of the layout of the Furlong Car Park.</p> <p>No more cars parked on the verges.</p>	Short – medium	<p>RTC</p> <p>Potential Partners: HCC NFDC</p>

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15.	Accessibility	Lack of disabled access to some shops and businesses	15.1 Map the areas, such as walks, businesses, seats, that are accessible Integrate into Signage Project Group - show gradients and rest points Create Town Council commendation for meeting certain standards of accessibility Produce written information that will identify business premises that are accessible to wheelchair users.	PT&E – Budget request Budget bid for £1500 in 2009/10 for accessibility leaflet To do. Work carried out by NFAFA.	Disabled people know the degree of ease with which they can access shops and businesses, Maps will clearly show people accessibility information, rest stops etc. Businesses will be rewarded by receiving Town Council commendation for high standards.	Short	RTC Potential Partners : New Forest Access for All NFDC Chamber of Trade

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

No.	Theme	Key issues identified in the Town Plan	Projects	Committee Action/ Progress Update	Objectives	Short, Medium or Long Term	Facilitating Organisation and Potential Partners
21.	Security	Many complaints from all age groups regarding lack of street lighting in certain areas	21.1 Improve street lighting	PT&E - budget request Budget bid for £3,000 in 2009/10 (recurring) to build up provision to meet future needs. PFI may lead to an upgrade of some lights in the town.	More street lighting. People feel safer and have a greater sense of well being	Short – Medium	RTC Potential Partners : NFDC HCC