

Langport Town Council

Community Review project

Background

Smart Communities Ltd have been asked by Somerset Association of Local Councils using funding from Somerset County Council to facilitate a Community Review Project.

14 Parish and Town Councils will be supported to initiate or review their Community Plan.

Community Plan

A Community Plan sets out a vision for how the community wants to develop and identifies the actions needed to achieve it.

It should

- Reflect the views of all sections of the community
- Identifies which features and local characteristics people value
- Identifies local problems and opportunities
- Spells out how residents want the community to develop in the future
- Prepares a plan of action to achieve this vision

The plan is based on information provided through a survey. The survey could ask questions concerning

- i Social and Community
Democracy; Information; People; Public Houses: Community buildings: Volunteering; Young and old
- ii Services
Health care; Childcare; Community information; Crime; Education and training; Housing; Lighting; Public transport; Provision of litter bins
- iii Economic
Employment needs and opportunities; Food; New technology; Recycling; Energy efficiency; Retail services
- iv Land and environment
Building development; Tourism sites; Landscape; Historic buildings; Traffic speed and volume; Wildlife and natural beauty
- v Leisure
Access for walkers, horse riders and cyclists; Children's interests; Visitors and tourists

Smart Communities Ltd will

- Allocate an advisor and provide access to a wider team of expert support.
- Undertake 1:1 support to ensure specific issues are included in the process
- Provide regular group training for each step of the process
- Support and attend a community consultation event as required
- Support the creation of a survey
- Support the consultation of your community
- Provide marketing material to use to promote the plan
- Support the analysis of responses
- Support the writing of a plan
- Support the creation of an Action Plan
- Make recommendations for funding for projects emerging.
- Provide a detailed Toolkit

Town Council will

- Complete an Expression of Interest Form by 31st July (numbers chosen will be limited)
- Need to commit to the process if successful by signing an agreement
- Identify and recruit people for your Community Plan Steering group by September
- Attend the Initial Meeting on 7th September (online)
- Attend regular online group training sessions
- Need to be ready to engage with Smart Communities to complete the plan by March 2023 (this usually takes 12-18 months)
- Need to undertake the consultation process between September and December
- Fund any printing and event costs

Recommendation

To submit an expression of interest

Examples of Community Plans

Somerton

<https://somertontowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Somerton-Community-Plan-2018.pdf-press.pdf-published-version.pdf>

Bruton

<https://somertontowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Somerton-Community-Plan-2018.pdf-press.pdf-published-version.pdf>