

Suggestions from Panel Members on Town Regeneration

Car Parking

Cllr Jones – to kick start towns – free car parking on certain days : ie Mondays/Saturdays – If we could open up space outside the town for parkings, a shuttle service into the centre on special days would be ideal.

Queuing

Weather would become an issue post summer/early autumn – how do shoppers queue in the rain? Proposal in Kings Lynn (and other towns as appropriate) for awning provision along either side of the High Street from Primark to M&S – Cost of marshaling shoppers might be mitigated through business rate relief.

Waterfront

Cllr Collingham and Cllr Jones both thought the waterfront offered possibilities for social distancing whilst a Waterfront Village where shops and pop up cafés could offer visitors a pleasant experience. Possibility of a return of the ship which had docked during the Hanseatic League celebrations with an accompanying German/French market.

Outdoor entertainment

for children during school holidays might include a staged “dancercise” Joe Wicks style on the Tuesday Market place. Looking ahead an idea for an ice rink and Christmas Market was proposed. If possible both events should “travel” to Downham Market and Hunstanton.

Outdoor music events in the Walks – could be marshaled by having an enclosure marked out for eg 40 people with a tagging (coloured bands) system in operation. Those waiting would have the opportunity to access coffee/licenced beer wagons. Start time should be around lunchtime to finish early evening.

Downham Market

Sustainable future for the town was perceived to be a particular challenge with small independent shops closing. ***Into the future:*** Rebranding the town as a lifestyle destination would seem to offer the best hope, particularly as people consider where it is possible to have a “work from home/accessibility to office” location, Downham Market with its good rail links would seem an ideal option. Need to support such development with leisure facilities.

In terms of retail shopping, this would only realistically restart if there could be an experience attached, ie refreshments, outdoor markets, other events.