

Suggestions from R&D Panel on Town Regeneration

Are we able to save/regenerate the traditional perception of the Town Centre from terminal decline in the face of out of town retail parks and Internet shopping?

Could we be flogging a dead donkey?

Do we need to consider an entirely new direction?

A continental style of mixed residential, smaller independent retail and commercial?

Is loss of business diversity down to our town's demographics?

What can we do to attract tourists to stay overnight and thereby increase town centre spending?

Create more higher education and training opportunities in the town centre. Reward/scheme for young entrepreneurs to set an example to others who will follow and improve the retention of ambitious young people in the area. A more attractive, diverse and safer nightlife offering that encourages and caters for all ages. Focus on the town becoming a social centre/hub i.e. a destination that is more than just for shopping. Continue to improve public realm/recreation space to help give people a reason to stay and socialise in town. Build upon creative hub potential. Tuesday Market Place could and should be reclaimed from being a car park to become, in its entirety, a dedicated but flexible public realm/recreational space and make more fun, e.g. with the likes of a giant chess set. Is it possible to have a rigid but entirely removable marquee system for covered markets and public events not dissimilar to that used for the Chelsea Flower show?

Encouragement for market stalls (in Tuesday and Saturday market places (e.g. offer of 4 free weeks, as per Swaffham) as well as smaller shops and startup businesses in the town centre (e.g. reduced business rates). Popup indoor markets in unused retail space. Mobilise and engage immigrant communities in commercial and community projects. Wean the council off revenue derived from parking charges where else has this been achieved successfully?

Fewer cars, free parking?

Prioritise active travel and public transport: Ferry link, dedicated walking and cycle paths e.g.

Terrington St Clement to ferry terminal. A more cycle friendly town centre (without putting off pedestrians). Better and safer places to leave bicycles. Enable greater multimode transport options, park and ride and community bus links. Less tolerance for run down properties. Improve flood resilience for existing properties. Retain Carnegie Trust Library building as a community resource e.g. as a community led hub for clubs, social groups, meetings and café. Heritage Open Day is always very successful as is the King's Lynn Festival. How can we improve year round interest in our cultural offering?