

FOREWORD

Town Centre Working Group

We were set up by the Initiative in October 2004 with a remit to pursue actions aimed at enhancing the town centre having regard for its historic character and the economic, social and environmental needs of the town and its people.

We see this Action Plan as a beginning, and if it attracts wide support, as the basis for the implementation of changes which will meet our remit.

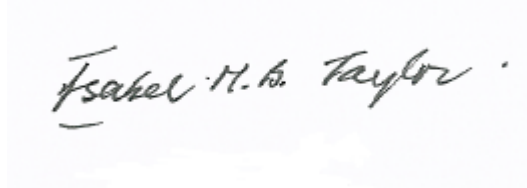
We are grateful to those persons, mainly Council officials, who have assisted us by providing factual information, and to everyone who has expressed a view on the issue, particularly at the town meeting organised by the Initiative in August 2004 or by completing the January 2005 questionnaire. We do of course take sole responsibility for all that appears here and for all errors and omissions.

We commend the Action Plan to all those with an interest in Annan.

Annan Initiative

On behalf of the Initiative I am pleased to accept the Working Group's Action Plan.

Some of the Plan's proposals offer potential community benefits which can only be delivered by the actions of individuals, be it you or me, the woman or man in the street, or as business or property owners. It is down to each one of us. Others require collective action. For its part the Initiative will do all it can to implement such proposals, at its own hand and in partnership with others, including the Community Council, the Dumfries & Galloway Council, Scottish Enterprise Dumfries & Galloway, and Solway Heritage.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isabel M. G. Taylor". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Bunty Taylor
Chairperson, Annan Initiative.
April 2005.

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 What you see is what you get. Or is it a case of don't judge the book by its cover? There is no doubt that in the town centre a combination of a few empty, but prominent and neglected, properties and a larger number of occupied but badly maintained properties, cast a shadow over the town and people's perception of it. This undermines confidence and contributes to a sense of decline. It also detracts from the positive efforts of others and masks the underlying resilience and vitality of townspeople, e.g. as reflected in the town's many groups and activities.

1.2 Why the town centre? As one contributor to the August 2004 town meeting put it, 'the centre defines the town, if it isn't right then the town isn't.' From some angles the town and its people are thriving, e.g. low unemployment and significant housing development, from others they are at risk, e.g. the closure of Chapelcross. Threats can be turned into opportunities and the need to embrace change is a fact of life. Annan's location has always loomed large in its history and its development. Today is no different. The town's residents benefit from the town's good transport links, its closeness to the border, and to Carlisle and Dumfries with the consequent wider employment choices and range of goods and services they offer. Conversely the ease of movement and that wider range of goods and services draw business away from the town and that has a major impact on the town centre.

1.3 A hundred years ago, although the population was much smaller, the town centre was the hub of a thriving agricultural market, an important commercial centre, the focal point of civic leadership, and the location of important public services. Today, the market has gone, the commercial core remains a valuable presence but not of the same significance, civic leadership has been replaced by, at best, administrative competence and public services are often inadequate. The buildings that were built to reflect the commercial prosperity and civic pride of the former age remain but are now seen by their owners and tenants more as liabilities than assets and treated as such. Hence the overwhelmingly negative response on "streets and buildings" to the January 2005 questionnaire.

1.4 In our view today's town centre can only be successful if it is a thriving centre of business. Businesses of all sorts, but businesses that generate turnover and profits which allow, indeed encourage, owners and tenants to reinvest, improve and maintain their premises. Again, in our view, this is a more likely scenario, if the business profile is dominated by high quality, specialist, independent and local shops and other businesses. This would allow the town to be promoted as a destination of choice and enable it to create a niche for itself in a competitive marketplace. If "business" is key, how we pull together as a community, the centre as a place to live and as the main location for community facilities are also important. We deal with all of these issues in Chapter 2 "The Heart of the Matter".

1.5 If business confidence and performance improves then much else can follow including lasting and durable improvements to the townscape. The implementation of the Townscape Heritage Initiative will provide a significant boost to the process as would a streetscape plan based on the town centre as a destination rather than a through route. We deal with these issues in Chapter 3 "The Built Environment".

1.6 Finally, but also importantly, we believe that a town needs its open spaces, places to escape the hustle and bustle, places without commercial pressures on parents, places to relax. We deal with this topic in Chapter 4 "Green Spaces".

1.7 In drawing up this Action Plan we have attempted to be both imaginative and practical. The actions needed to turn it into reality will place demands on all of us, as individuals, as community or voluntary groups, as property owners or tenants, as business owners or managers, as officials or councillors, as residents, as people who care about the town they live in, work in, learn in or socialise in. We are all stakeholders. It is achievable.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

2.1 If, as argued in the Introduction, the town centre defines the town, then it is what “goes on” there that gives it its character and determines whether it is a good place to be. This Chapter focuses on the following issues, business activity, how we pull together as a community, living in the centre, and community facilities.

Business

2.2 “Nothing personal, it’s only business”. In reality a successful business is also likely to be one that is personal. One that listens and responds to its customers. One that provides value for money. Annan town centre is home to over 100 businesses (see appendix 2), many successful, but not all seen as providing the goods or services that potential customers are seeking and not all seen as being good neighbours (see appendix 3).

2.3 We do not attempt to second guess existing or prospective business owners on the demand for goods and services, although they may be interested in the response to our questionnaire ¹. Rather we aim to identify issues which if dealt with will contribute to a healthy, dynamic and prosperous town centre. These issues are for business people, for all of us as individuals and as a community, and for those public bodies who act on our behalf.

2.4 Likewise the outcome we seek is also influenced by other matters, such as the built environment, which we comment upon in subsequent chapters. However we cannot over emphasise their overlap, for example the impact of empty shops and other properties can have a profoundly negative effect on people’s perception of the town centre and what it has to offer (see appendix 3).

2.5 “Location, location, location”, may be the mantra of property developers. It is also, as we have said in the introduction, a plus for Annan, but one with some inevitable drawbacks. How many of us shop regularly in Carlisle or Dumfries? How many of us think nothing of the more occasional foray to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Barrhead or the Metro Centre? In some cases the desired goods or services aren’t available here, or the quality is too low or the price too high and therefore travel is the chosen remedy. But that is not always the case.

2.6 Annan town centre offers businesses and their customers:

- an accessible location (as easy to get to as get away from).
- central parking.
- free parking.
- a compact location (everything within walking distance).
- an attractive environment (the river, riverside walks, and the Everholm Park).
- a High Street of character and potential.
- a potential market of 10,000 plus, excluding visitors and those who can be drawn to the town.

¹ see appendix 3

- competitive non-domestic rent and rates.

2.7 We are of the view:

- that the business community should do more to promote Annan as a convenient and attractive place to do business.
- that the Initiative, Community Council, Council and Scottish Enterprise Dumfries & Galloway should support the business community in this.
- that as individuals our first choice should be to buy our goods and services locally (it is also better for our environment).
- that as individuals we must provide feedback to our business community, both positive and negative.
- that as individuals we should give particular support to local and independent businesses (this would help to give the town its own unique character).
- that as individuals we should support those businesses providing locally produced goods or services (this would encourage others and draw visitors from a wider area).
- that the Initiative should seek to establish a permanent “Showcase“ for locally produced arts and crafts (this would reflect the talent and skills already present, encourage others, and draw visitors from a wider area).
- that the business community, Community Council, Council and SEDG support the Initiative in this.
- that the Council and SEDG should be proactive in helping existing businesses to identify ways in which their economy, efficiency and effectiveness can be improved.
- that the business community, Initiative, Community Council, Council and SEDG should promote Annan as a business location with a focus on independent businesses providing a wide range and depth of goods and services (this would help to provide Annan with a unique identity, make it a destination of choice, and consequently draw visitors from a wider area).
- that where business efficiency would be significantly improved by relocation within the town, and where that would also bring additional community benefits, the Initiative, Community Council, Council, SEDG and the proposed Special Purpose Delivery Vehicle (SPDV) should work together to secure that end. (See an illustration of the potential of such an approach at the end of this Chapter).

Togetherness

2.8 To be of like mind, to feel and act like a community must be the litmus test. Our questionnaire² tells us something about how we see ourselves, with the friendliness of people in general and shopkeepers/assistants in particular having a strong positive score. However the highest group score is a negative and is all about how we treat each other.

2.9 It is about antisocial behaviour and how that detracts from the healthy, dynamic and prosperous town centre which we seek. However we are of the view that anti-social behaviour is not only about the actions of the individual, or groups of people, on the street, but includes the actions or otherwise of many others.

2.10 Our definition of antisocial behaviour embraces:

- building owners / tenants who do not maintain their property (the look of the place is the most significant concern expressed in responses to our questionnaire)
- those who sell drugs
- those who sell alcohol to under age young people
- publicans who do not discourage drunkenness
- a Constabulary that fails to provide a visible and pro-active police presence at critical times
- an Education Authority that is unable to provide a lunch menu which is nutritious, healthy and affordable
- a Council that cannot translate its strategies into actions in respect of facilities and activities for teenagers
- the individual who drops litter
- the individual who spits or drops chewing gum on the pavement
- the individual who does not lift and take home or place in a suitable bin his or her dog's excrement
- the individual or group who damage private property or that owned collectively
- the groups of young people whose actions detract from the enjoyment of the town centre and in some cases deters others from taking their leisure in the town centre in the evening
- parents who shirk their responsibilities for their children's behaviour

2.11 The above list is not exhaustive nor are the issues identified of equal significance. Sometimes concerns may be more about perception than reality. But perception matters. is also the case that unacceptable behaviour is usually that of a small minority but that it has a disproportionate effect on other people's lives. Most of us know from our own experience that when in a group our inhibitions are fewer and that we are less considerate of those out

² see appendix 3

with the group. For example we are of the view that in large part this is the case where there are a very large number of young people trying to buy lunch, eat it, chat with friends, and get back to the Academy in less than 45 minutes. However, particularly for those with no direct contact with the Academy, the bad behaviour of a few students detracts from the very positive picture created by its performing arts (the musical productions, the school band), its sporting endeavours, and its many other activities about which the wider public may often be unaware.

2.12 We are of the view:

- that the Academy and its School Pupil Council should consider whether the presence of duty prefects could help to ensure considerate behaviour at lunchtimes.
- that the Academy should consider ways and means of ensuring that the many positive actions and achievements of its students are more generally known.
- that the Council should review its school meals contract to identify and remove any contractual barriers to the provision of a nutritious, healthy and affordable menu.
- that the Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary should provide a real and meaningful police presence in the town centre at the critical times, both to reassure people and to be a real deterrent to those who would otherwise cause a public nuisance, injury or damage.
- that the Council and the police authority review the quality and coverage of CCTV provision with the aim of ensuring that it is made more effective.
- that the Council, in collaboration with private property owners where appropriate, seek to identify whether security lighting could be used to combat vandalism in vulnerable locations.
- that the Council carry out and publish a needs assessment of facilities / activities for Annan's young people.
- that all parents should accept responsibility for the behaviour of their children, be they six or sixteen.
- that the recently established Academy based Lower Annandale Youth Development team (LAYD) be drawn into all consultations and discussions concerning the actions arising from this Action Plan in order that implementation and outcomes are properly influenced by the perspective of youth. [In this regard it is noteworthy that an Academy student has made a significant contribution to this Action Plan in her capacity as a member of the Working Group and that Academy students also contribute to Community Council discussions.]
- that we all do what we can as individuals to improve our own behaviour and to assist the police and others, e.g. Environmental or Community Wardens, in carrying out their responsibilities.
- that the Initiative, Community Council and Council consider whether addressing the issues identified here and elsewhere in this Action Plan would be assisted by the appointment of a town centre manager.

- that the Initiative meet with local primary schools to discuss ways in which the community could contribute to young people's understanding and appreciation of the town, its history and its present day character. One option might be the preparation of an Information Pack complemented by visits, activities and talks.

[N.B. our views on the issue of property maintenance are provided in Chapter 3]

Living In The Centre

2.13 We used to, some still do, and there are indications that this is growing. We see this as very positive both in respect of the contribution those residents make to a vibrant town centre by simply being there, and secondly through the impact on its physical appearance. The latter may be through the adaptation, conversion or modernisation of existing property or through the provision of good quality new housing, most likely in flatted accommodation. The McCarthy & Stone development now underway in Murray/Ednam Street is one example, the proposed renovation of Fairfield Place to provide 5 houses is another, and in addition there are signs of planned activity by a number of other private property owners.

2.14 Accommodation in the town centre has the potential to meet the needs of a wide spectrum of people. The conversion of redundant space above shops offers the prospect of affordable housing for young people. New developments such as that in Murray/Ednam Street should meet the needs and aspirations of older people. Other conversions may appeal to singles or couples with busy working lives.

2.15 We are of the view:

- that the Council should do all that it can to facilitate all such provision, e.g. through publicising the availability of advice from its conservation and planning officials and encouraging private property owners to seek an early meeting at which the implications of development within a Conservation Area / alterations to a Listed building might be outlined and guidance offered on things to do or not do. Such meetings would not substitute for appropriate professional advice, indeed they might properly point people in that direction, but it could help people to take more informed decisions and save time, money and heartache as a consequence.

Community Facilities

2.16 To add the final brick to the wall the Town Centre should be the natural home for many of the wide range of facilities that a community such as ours needs and deserves. It already has the Museum and the Victoria Halls complex. Both real assets but both under-resourced. The former owes its ongoing development and success to a dedicated curator supported by a band of volunteers, i.e. The Friends of Annandale and Eskdale Museums. The latter lacks such leadership and support. It provides facilities but it could be much more. The Town Centre also has the Library and the Post Office. The former is an important facility but is located on the periphery. The latter may be seen by many to be no different to any other 21st century commercial operation but for those who continue to see it providing a vital community service, albeit with some private business embellishments, its present location appears unduly restrictive. The Town Centre also has the Citizens Advice Bureau, an Activity and Resource Centre and ClipICT (a learning centre). The former might benefit from larger premises and the latter will need the support of the whole community as it reopens under new management and with a new focus after a twelve month absence.

2.17 We are of the view:

- that the Victoria Halls complex should be used more intensively.
- that to that end an independent audit should be commissioned with a view to identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the current management arrangements, of the range of uses and potential uses, of the fitness for purpose of the existing facilities, and the potential for more community involvement in the day to day management of the complex.
- that the community would benefit from a meeting place for older residents, where matters of common interest might be discussed and pursued.
- that the Library should be relocated to a new purpose built facility in the Town Centre.
- that ideally the Post Office should also provide its services from larger and better premises.
- that a Marriage Room of appropriate quality and located within historic premises such as Bridge House would be a potential magnet for visitors and bring benefits to the business community and more generally to the town.
- that likewise the strong international interest in family history could be supported by an appropriately located Family History Centre.
- that as referred to at paragraph 2.7 there should be a permanent showcase for locally produced arts and crafts which would reflect the talent and skills already present, encourage others, and draw visitors from a wider area.
- that an Information Centre should be created and located in one of the Town Centre's old and empty properties. Such a centre would be primarily there to meet the needs of residents but would also provide information and assistance to visitors. It would provide a "notice board" for the many local groups and clubs, each of which has its own support and following but which may often be invisible to the wider community. It would provide a serviced office for the Annan Initiative and for non-profit making groups without office premises of their own. It would provide information about the town, its past and present, and its people. It would provide the Academy with a shop window. All of these facilities and others should be provided in a modern setting, using modern technology, albeit located in an old property, offering an example of how such buildings can be adapted to meet today's needs.

One Illustration of Potential

Carrs Agriculture own property with a frontage on the High Street and Port Street also with access to Victoria Road and Greencroft Wynd. On the face of it this is a busy business with parking problems that impact on access and egress from Port Street. Again on the face of it this suggests that the efficiency of the site is less than it might be. This is the kind of business that we would wish to prosper and grow in the town. But could it be more successful in new accommodation with plenty of secure parking in a business park setting? Also with the town centre becoming a more sought after location property values will increase and making a move to a new site more financially attractive. In this event the company with help from SEDG, and perhaps the SPDV, might choose to relocate presenting a development opportunity.

In such a scenario we are of the view:

- *that the larger part of the site currently occupied by industrial buildings would be suitable for housing similar to that planned for Murray / Ednam Street.*
- *that the older part of the property with a frontage to the High Street and including Pools Court be renovated.*
- *that the part on the High Street be adapted for business use, perhaps as start up serviced offices for new enterprises, or for the permanent "Showcase" or Information Centre referred to above.*
- *that Pools Court be converted to a grouping of small shops with a focus on arts and crafts and related businesses.*
- *that the courtyard be covered with a glass roof to facilitate more comfortable shopping and to provide a space where people may sit outside whilst having tea or coffee.*

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Townscape

3.1 For residents and visitors alike the town's physical image is still caught by its bridge, the town hall at one end of the High Street, the old parish church at the other, and the dominant presence of red sandstone in these structures and the many other fine properties built a hundred plus years ago. Those buildings combine with the more domestic structures of earlier years to provide a townscape of character.

3.2 This character is reflected in the outstanding conservation area designation of a large part of the town centre and Ministerial approval for an Article 4 Direction which enables the Council in partnership with Historic Scotland to introduce a scheme of grant aid which is intended to assist with the repair or enhancement of older properties in the conservation area.

3.3 The status of the conservation area is further underlined by the Townscape Heritage Initiative application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. At this time, April 2005, it is understood that the THI will proceed. Its approval, bringing with it substantial monies from the Council and SEDG should provide a meaningful and timely catalyst for the sort of changes advocated in this Action Plan.

3.4 Nevertheless as shown by the overwhelmingly negative response on "streets and buildings"³ to the January 2005 questionnaire, not everything in the garden is lovely. The greatest concern, by far, is the impact of badly maintained properties, often empty or partly occupied, on the centre's appearance. That impact is underscored by the significant neglect of one or two landmark buildings. This should be reduced by the work now underway to convert the ground floor of Regent House to new premises for Ladbroke Bookmakers.

3.5 As we have argued in Chapter 2 the key to the town centre's future success is as a thriving centre of business. The availability of grant aid and THI grants referred to above must be good news and should be of great assistance in restoring confidence as building owners and tenants work to square the circle, ie creating viable businesses and at the same time conserving that which gives the town its character and appeal. But they are not a panacea.

3.6 In forming our views we have had regard for the January 2005 questionnaire and Dumfries & Galloway Council's 2004 Annan Conservation Area Character Appraisal. We are of the view:

- that the latter is an excellent document, both readable and pertinent.
- that its proposals are very important and should be fully implemented.
- that it should be seen as an ongoing working guide by all involved in physical planning and development, e.g. building owners, tenants, builders and planners.
- that all property owners and tenants in the conservation area should have a copy along with the associated leaflet, "Caring for the Built Environment, Annan Conservation Area", and the Council's booklet "Caring for the Built Environment,

³ see appendix 3

Conservation Area Guidance". It may be argued that this is overkill but foreknowledge, education and understanding might go a long way to minimise the delays and difficulties arising from the once in a lifetime building client forming premature conclusions before seeking good advice.

- that the Council should produce and make widely available a simple Q & A guide to the more common problems faced by building owners and tenants when considering alterations and improvements to properties within a conservation area. This would complement the detailed technical guidance already available, e.g. on traditional window details.

3.7 Again as outlined in Chapter 2 we see an increase in the number of people, young and old, living in the town centre as highly desirable in its own right. We are of the view:

- that It would also help building owners make economic use of redundant or under-occupied space above shops and other ground floor businesses and contribute to the physical improvement of such properties.
- that it could contribute to the further regeneration of some of the Closes and Wynds.

3.8 Notwithstanding the above the prime responsibility for and interest in the good condition of property must rest with the building owner. It is in his or her self interest that their property is well maintained. Firstly to protect its asset value, secondly to maximise potential rental income and thirdly to create a pleasant environment which will encourage residents and visitors to use the centre and bolster businesses located there.

3.9 We are therefore of the view:

- that all building owners should make themselves fully aware of the physical condition of their properties and carry out all necessary works at the earliest opportunity.
- that such investment makes sound business sense.
- that the example set by the best should be emulated by the rest.
- that "backsides" are just as important as frontages but are often neglected and treated as out of sight out of mind. However many are clearly visible and contribute to the sense of decline.
- that in this regard the treatment of the remaining Closes and Wynds is also important both as places to work and live and in maintaining the town centre's character.
- that whilst it is often difficult to create viable economic business space within an original structure any addition to it, even at the rear, should be of a quality that does not detract from the overall character of the town centre in general and the conservation area in particular.
- that attention to day to day matters such as the regular washing of frontages and the fronting pavements can make a significant impact on peoples impressions of the town.

- that whilst the Council is limited in the practical actions it can take to tackle serious neglect of private property, where it does issue a Repairs Notice that should be publicly displayed to increase pressure on the offending owner. We understand that this is not possible at present but that changes being introduced to reflect Scottish Executive requirements will make it so from May 2005.
- that selling/letting agents might do more to persuade property owners, particularly those based elsewhere, that property vacant for more than six months, should be boarded up or presented in such a way that it is not an eyesore which detracts from its neighbours and the centre as a whole.
- that in such cases the selling/letting agents should consider seeking their clients approval to the “employment” of artists or perhaps arts students from the Academy to decorate the temporary frontages.

3.10 Whilst the foregoing applies to all property owners we are of the opinion that specific comment must be made on the performance of the Council in its capacity as a property owner. We say this for a number of reasons. Firstly it owns such property on behalf of all of us as residents of the Region. Secondly it is responsible for some important properties including the Town Hall (listed category B), albeit that this is owned by the Annan Common Good Fund, the Council offices adjacent to the Town Hall, Bridge House (listed category A), the Victoria Halls complex/Museum/Social Services offices in Bank Street (group listed category B), the Family Centre in Bank Street, formerly the managers house associated with the old British Linen Bank, (listed category A), and the offices etc. in Ednam Street, formerly the school, (listed category B). Thirdly wearing another hat it is responsible for enforcing statutory requirements on other building owners, e.g. in respect of listed buildings requirements and of the obligations arising from the town centre’s outstanding conservation area status.

3.11 Unfortunately the Council does not set a good example to others. It has an identified £4m+ maintenance backlog for its office buildings and an approximate 75% under funding for routine maintenance. Consequently its priorities are statutory / emergency issues and a fire fighting approach to other items as they crop up. Apart from all of the other implications of such bad practice it puts at risk the fabric of our town and for example the neglect of basics such as annual gutter cleaning gives rise to a build up of material including the droppings from vermin such as feral pigeons, the growth of vegetation, blocked gutters and actual or potential damage to the roof timbers and structural walls. All of this becomes progressively expensive to remedy putting further strain on inadequate budgets. Clearly a case of do as I say not as I do and certainly not a case of a stitch in time saving nine. The Victoria Halls complex is one such example.

3.12 Other examples can be quoted including the lack of fresh decoration and anything more than superficial cleaning in the well used Market Hall. The internal gents lavatory between the Museum and the Market Hall is often over heated, has ceiling panels out of place, is poorly lit, has grimy wash hand basins with miniscule pieces of soap, and grubby urinals. All in all, an unsanitary provision and one that invites abuse and vandalism, ie if the owner doesn’t care why then should the user. Similarly the Family Centre in Bank Street (listed category A) has been unoccupied for some considerable time. It was vacated to allow the roof to be repaired and was to reopen as a Children’s Centre but now requires the installation of a lift to comply with Disability Discrimination Act requirements. At the risk of being politically incorrect it might seem to be a case of the tail wagging the dog. Surely it would be better to open the Centre, provide the services and work around the disability issue as and when it presents itself. It may seem to the external observer that the Council puts more effort and resource into developing strategies than delivering first class front line

services from fit for purpose premises of a quality that enhances the users experience rather than the reverse. In the meantime this category A building is at risk and this risk is compounded by the neglect of the surrounding garden grounds. This invites its use as a rubbish dump and increases the risk of vandalism and vermin. Even when empty the grounds should be properly maintained to a standard that reflects and complements the building, ie. Not “gang mower “culture.

3.13 Another category A example is Bridge House. Owned by the Council for over 30 years and largely vacant for about 25. Fortunately in this case there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon. The Council along with Solway Heritage and The National Trust for Scotland have recently commissioned Simpson & Brown Architects to prepare a feasibility study aimed at identifying possible options for the reuse of the building and the adjoining land. If a feasible preferred option is identified this could lead to a conservation project under the management of a building preservation trust.

3.14 Having regard for the above we are of the view:

- that the Council must be pressed to find an acceptable answer to the admitted deficit in its practices.
- that it should examine all possible options, e.g. disposing of individual properties such as the Victoria Halls complex to a not for profit community based building preservation trust having provided a capital dowry to reflect the condition of the property, and hiring space from the trust as and when required at a commercial rate.
- that it might also consider entering into partnership agreements with voluntary bodies for the upkeep of grounds such as at the planned Children’s Centre in Bank Street.
- that this approach might also be the best way of securing the long term future of other facilities such as the Motte & Bailey discussed in Chapter 4.

Streetscape

3.15 Whilst the essential character of the town centre is created by its mix of buildings the streetscape has a powerful impact on the overall impression and in the case of the High Street on the success or otherwise of the town centre as a thriving centre of business. Again we would commend the guidance laid out in the Council’s 2004 booklet, Annan Conservation Area Character Appraisal. We note that in carrying out recent work in the conservation area, e.g. the erection of safety railings at Fish Cross, the Council are not following this guidance and continue to use utilitarian materials which are contrary to the guidance. We also note that whilst litter picking by the Council employees is effectively carried out the streets never get a thorough clean, chewing gum is not removed, and the streets are never washed other than the pavements in front of their premises by one or two private owners or tenants. These and other issues detract from the quality of the town centre.

3.16 However perhaps the fundamental issue is how successful or otherwise is the High Street and the surrounding area in achieving the right balance between the car and the pedestrian. We see this as the key in encouraging residents and visitors to regard the town centre as a destination, a place to spend time and money, a place that caters for the motorist, a place that allows the pedestrian to shop and carry out their business without hassle, a place to travel to not from.

3.17 We are aware that Solway Heritage has visited some of these issues as part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative application and that its implementation will include some work to the “public realm” in front of the Town Hall and in the Square around the war memorial.

3.18 We are of the view:

- that such “public realm” work must set a standard that should be adopted by the Council for the whole conservation area with particular emphasis on the High Street.
- that consequently prior to that work a scheme for the whole area should be prepared now which satisfies the under noted criteria.
- views the town centre as a destination.
- discourages traffic from using the B721 as a west to east or east to west through route.
- maximises ease of movement and comfort of pedestrians.
- takes account of the needs of pedestrians with disabilities.
- takes account of the needs of the more elderly pedestrian.
- prioritises use of available town centre off-street parking for short stay shoppers etc.
- restricts on street parking to short stay.
- provides for necessary delivery provision for town centre businesses.
- makes recommendations for longer stay visitor parking and parking for those working in the town centre. In this regard the Council might explore the availability of the waste land at the north end of the Riverside Walk development in Port Street as a suitable site for an office hours car park for its own employees, Monday to Friday, and the public at other times. This would remove the pressure on the Motte car park freeing it up for those using the riverside or other short stay uses. It might also investigate the provision of a coach park on the edge of the town centre and readily accessible from one or other of the by-pass junctions. This would encourage stops by group trips and thereby contribute to the town’s economy.
- offers a restricted palette of paving materials etc. which are of a quality and durability appropriate to the Conservation Area.
- makes recommendations on their adoption by the Council.
- minimises the “clutter” of directional signs etc. both to assist their visibility and to reduce their detracting from an appreciation of the town centre/town streetscape.
- promotes high quality modern design rather than a pastiche of some former period.
- includes all necessary street furniture including planting boxes, benches, rubbish bins, bicycle racks, visitor information points and means of safely and quickly erecting and dismantling the Xmas lights.

- makes recommendations on the use of modern technology including Broadband in meeting the needs of a modern town centre.
- makes recommendations on street lighting which balance environmental concerns and safety.
- makes recommendations on CCTV installation.
- makes recommendations on the “lighting” of prominent and historic buildings.
- makes recommendations on the means of co-ordinating the utilities and minimising their adverse impact on the town/streetscape.

3.19 We are also of the view:

- that the bus station is poorly maintained, e.g. the shrub beds are often neglected, the shelters are dirty, the time tables are not always up to date.
- that consequently the bus station must be an integral part of the redesign.

GREEN SPACES

4.1 Even small towns such as Annan, which are surrounded by countryside and close to the sea, need outdoor places close to hand where residents and visitors can exercise or relax. Annan is fortunate in that regard. That fact is in part a result of its location and in part due to the foresight of townspeople, councillors and councils past. We must continue to build on their endeavours. This Chapter aims to provide a range of proposals to assist that effort.

Everholm Park and the adjacent Motte & Bailey

4.2 The town centre has a real asset in the nearby riverside walks, Everholm Park and the Motte & Bailey. We believe that more needs to be done to fully release the leisure and recreational potential of these areas. The proposals set out below aim to achieve that whilst recognising the constraints of ownership and finance which are always present. They also recognise and are intended to complement the project proposals for improved access and interpretation of Bruce's Motte and Bailey being led by The Friends of Annandale & Eskdale Museums

4.3 We are of the view :

- that the Everholm Park including the riverside footpath, pitches, running track, children's play area, and adjacent car park, is in all essentials fundamentally sound.
- that the running track is a wonderful facility but is grossly underused.
- that the ongoing replacement of trim track equipment with seating areas should be augmented by replanting to open up views over the river.
- that the children's play area should have more equipment, together with ground cover and lighting which would enable a greater intensity of use and make it more useable throughout the year.
- that public toilets adjacent to the play area are needed and, consequently, that the planned renovation of the Everholm pavilion without public toilets is a retrograde step and that this decision should be reconsidered.
- that ways of encouraging greater informal but supervised use of the pitches and running track should be considered.
- that discussions be held with the Academy to consider whether it could make some use of the running track.
- that the Motte & Bailey is currently a lost jewel.
- that the Friends of Annandale & Eskdale Museums project proposals for improved access and interpretation will, in part, address this concern but that in addition to underlining its historical significance the Motte & Bailey should be fully integrated into this area by the use of the Bailey as a picnic area and as the occasional venue for outdoor summer concerts, and the Motte as a mound which children can play and scramble over and as a vantage point for concerts.

- that as a consequence of the foregoing the unrestricted all day use of the car park should be limited, particularly in the summer months, to ensure that spaces are available for residents and visitors wishing to enjoy the Everholm area.
- that means of improving the security of all of these facilities need to be addressed if users are to feel safe and the investment protected. Whilst CCTV and lighting can contribute, it seems likely that some form of community warden supervision is also needed.
- that related ancillary but important matters including maintenance routines; the style and numbers of benches, picnic tables, litter bins and the like; the provision of suitable planting; the improvement of footpaths particularly those within the Motte & Bailey and connecting it to the Everholm; the removal of some trees on the Motte and the opening up of views from the Bailey over the river; the provision of good signage and information boards; and the issue of antisocial behaviour including the control of dogs; all need to be addressed in carrying forward these proposals.

Riverside Walk (downstream, east side) and Jubilee Garden

4.4 This is another excellent asset providing easy walking and good views of the river in all its conditions but with signs of insufficient maintenance and use. We believe that it would be used more if signage was improved and if at its southern end it was clearly linked to further walks on either side of the river. The “ Sustrans “ bridge offers that on the west side, e.g. by access to the signed walk to Barnkirk Point. On the east side a marked link to Waterfoot and thereby to the walks across the Merse or back to town via the Lower Kenziels and the Back of the Hill would meet this need. We are therefore of the view:

- that improved signage is needed.
- that the provision of information boards at appropriate spots would add to the walking experience and to visitors appreciation of the town, e.g. providing a brief history of the bridges, the caul, and the bird life along the river.
- that an improvement in maintenance outcomes needs to be achieved.
- that some dog owners should act more responsibly.

Old Churchyard adjacent to the Town Hall

4.5 An important but largely forgotten and unvisited reminder of the towns past (listed category B). Currently access is restricted. The gates are locked but the key will be provided on request to the Council offices “One Stop Shop“during normal office hours. However there is no information on display advertising that fact. There is concern about the potential threat of vandalism and this must be addressed. We believe that with a few changes this graveyard would offer a quiet place for contemplation and remembrance in the centre of the town, a use that would both respect and protect its past use.

4.6 We are of the view:

- that there should be open access during stated daylight hours.
- that ground conditions should be improved with the laying of a footpath.

- that the basic maintenance carried out by the Council should be supplemented by the assistance of a voluntary group, perhaps one with an interest in family history matters.
- that prior to open access becoming operational a survey of the condition of all headstones should be commissioned and any necessary remedial work carried out.
- that there should be provision of benches and an information board.
- that a historical leaflet should be prepared which should include information on the location of burial records.
- that the potential for vandalism and other antisocial behaviour should be minimised by the proposed opening hours and the installation of CCTV coverage.

Old Churchyard behind Old Kirk

4.7 An equally important graveyard (listed category A) with many fine family headstones and monuments including the Dirom Memorial. We believe that this churchyard should stay largely as it is but are of the view that as with the other churchyard:

- that ground conditions should be improved with the laying of a footpath.
- that the basic maintenance carried out by the Council should be supplemented by the assistance of a voluntary group.
- that there should be provision of benches and an information board.
- that a historical leaflet should be prepared which should include information on the location of burial records.

Old graveyard at Town Hall



Old Kirk graveyard

Appendix 1

For TCWG purposes the Town Centre is defined as the:

- Conservation Area

plus

- Cumberland Terrace
- Church Street (remainder)
- Charles Street (west side to and including the Library)
- Butts Street (to George Street and including Sommerfields)
- Gracies Banking
- Lady Street (to George Street/Nursery Place)
- Nursery Place (south side)
- Moat Road
- Bruce Street (to Moat Road)
- Everholm Park (remainder)
- Carlyles Place (remainder)
- Victoria Road (north side between Carlyles Place and Greencroft Wynd)
- Murray Street
- Ednam Street

Range of Town Centre Businesses [118 No.]

Appendix 2

Accountants [2]	Leisure Bookmakers [2]
Automotive Repairs/Supplies [2]	Leisure Cinema/Bingo [1]
Bakers [2]	Leisure Clubs [2]
Banks/Building Societies [4]	Leisure Hotels/Pub/Cafes/Take-Aways [10]
Building Services [3]	Leisure Retailers [3]
Butchers [1]	Newspaper [1]
Charity Retailers [5]	Newsagents [2]
Chidrens Nursery [1]	Opticians [2]
Clothes/Footwear Retailers [4]	Pet Supplies Retailers [2]
Dentists [3]	Photographers [2]
DIY- Home Retailers [2]	Saleroom [1]
DIY- Domestic/Surveyors [3]	Solicitors [4]
Farm Machinery/Supplies [2]	Stationery Supplies Retailers [1]
Florists [2]	Tailors [1]
Food/Drink Retailers [4]	Taxi [1]
Hairdressers/Barbers [8]	Travel Agents [2]
Health Leisure [1]	Vets [2]
Health Retailers/Chemists [3]	Undertakers [1]
Household Goods Retailers [11]	Upholsterer [1]
Insurance/Mortgage Brokers [2]	
Jewellery/Gifts Retailers [3]	

Appendix 3

ANNAN INITIATIVE TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP RESPONSES TO JANUARY 2005 QUESTIONNAIRE.

No. of responders 157 (approx. 15%)
Age profile of respondees (where provided).

< 16	nil
16 - 21	6
22 - 35	36
36 - 45	34
46 - 55	49
56 - 65	17
> 65	9

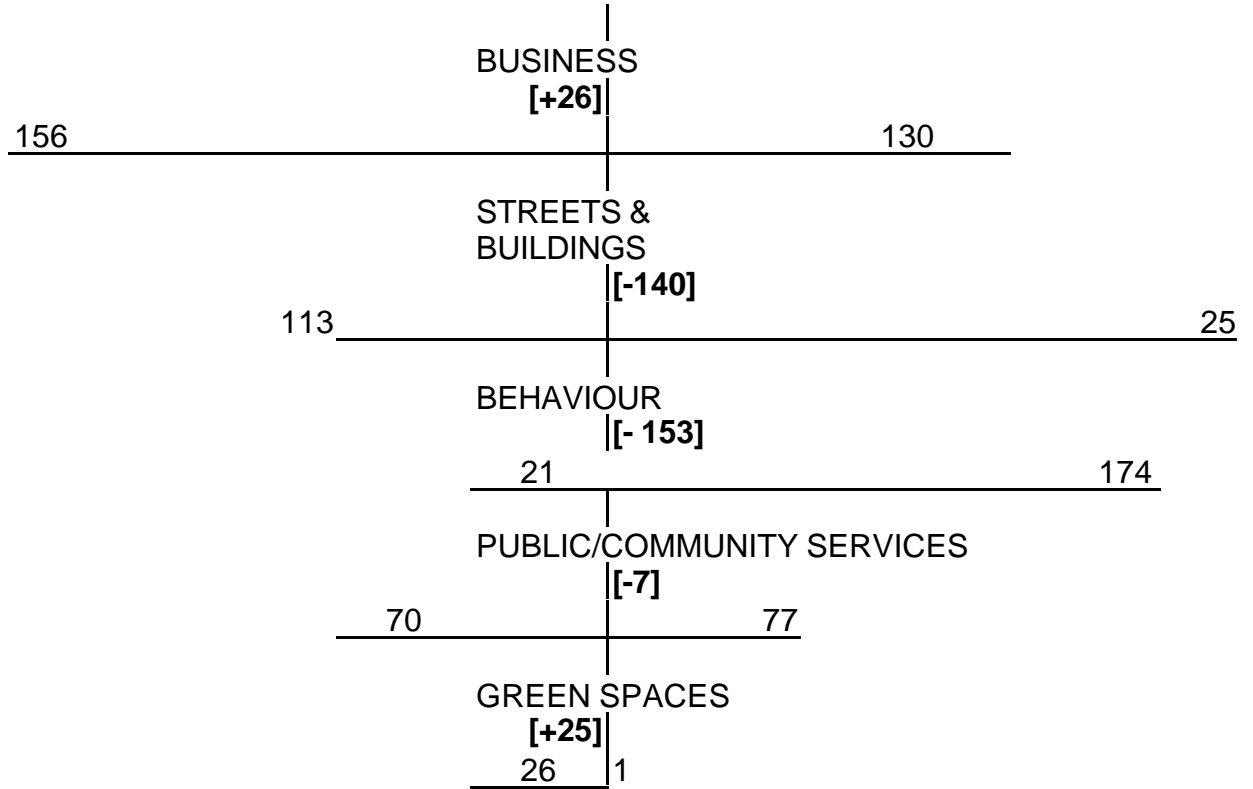
Information provided by responders.

live in the town centre	45
socialise in the town centre	57
work in the town centre	112
manage a business in the town centre	16
own a property in the town centre	20
own a business in the town centre	19
shop in the town centre	102
rent a property in the town centre	10

SUMMARY

BEST [386] Negative majority [249] **WORST** [635]

NB. 40 respondents failed to identify any positive features in the Town Centre



<p>BUSINESS - BEST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 . Variety of eating places [10] 2 . Friendly shopkeepers/Assistants [8] 3. One or two nice shops [3]. 4. Fish & chips [2]. 5. Local & independent shops [10]. 6. Local supermarkets [3]. 7. Good newsagents [3]. 8. Semi Chem. 9. Good variety of shops [16]. 10. Cinema [18]. 11. Pubs [7]. 12. Clubs [3]. 13. Good shopping location [11] 14. Factory Shop [3]. 15. Snips [3]. 16. Extra Special [3]. 17. Posthorn90 [5]. 18. Haddows [2]. 19. Cafe Royal [6]. 20. Good value local shops. 21. Local produce. 22. Flags at Commercial. 23. Perfect Retreat [5]. 24. Woodland Design [3]. 25. Forsyths. 26. Good bakers shops [4]. 27. Non-standard goods in a couple of shops. 28. Several small businesses. 29. Commercial. 30. Blue Bell [3] 31. Vets practice. 32. The Shed [2]. 33. Annan TV. 34. Mackays. 35. Butchers. 36. Short walking distances [2]. 37. Solway Cafe [2]. 38. Farmfoods. 39. Choice of hairdressers. 40. Auberge. 41. Paganis. 42. Fortitude of small businesses. 43. Diverse businesses. 44. Compact High St. <p>BUSINESS - MAKING IT BETTER</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lower rents to encourage new businesses. 2. More investment by businesses. 3. Lower business rates. 4. Lower water rates. 5. Less "red tape" for businesses. 6. Encourage more market stalls. 7. Better training for shop assistants. 8. Charity shops should pay business rates. 9. Should be a limit on number of charity shops. 10. Business people should do more to understand why people go out of town to shop. 11. More "farmers market" days. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Relax planning requirements to encourage new businesses. 13. Original Factory Shop should put a lid on their skip. 14. Carrs Agricultural should relocate to a business site near by-pass. 15. Shops with one-armed bandits should be more responsible. 16. CAB needs larger premises and more focus. 17. A tea-room to attract visitors. 18. Give the town an identity. 19. More community "whole town" events. 20. Better window dressing of shops to create interest. 21. Attract more "High Street" companies. 22. More shops selling ladies clothes/young adult clothes. 23. A sports shop. <p>BUSINESS - WORST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shops, lack of variety [31]. 2. Price of shop leases [2]. 3. Choice within shops. 4. Too many charity shops [14]. 5. Limited clothes shops [2]. 6. Lack of good quality shops [7]. 7. Too many low quality shops [6]. 8. Can't get milk on High St. 9. Poor supermarkets [3]. 10. No decent ladies clothes shop 11. Needs more shops [4]. 12. Too many take-aways [2]. 13. Shop assistants apathy. 14. Seedy atmosphere at night [2]. 15. Needs better cafe / restaurant [11]. 16. CAB premises out of the way and too small. 17. Lack of places to eat. 18. Only one big supermarket [2]. 19. Nowhere nice to have lunch. 20. No specialist grocer / deli. 21. Too many shops/ businesses closing [2]. 22. Shops closing at lunchtime. 23. Christmas lights of a hearse. 24. No cobblers. 25. No dry cleaners. 26. Absence of "proper shops "to browse in. 27. Domination by 1 supermarket. 28. No good shoe shop. 29. Can't buy fruit/veg on High Street[2]. 30. Original factory shop. 31. No services offered. 32. Lack of specialist shops offering local produce. 33. Cash machines exposed to weather. 34. No nice pubs / hotels/family 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> friendly [7]. 35. Too many banks. 36. Needs more multi-national shops. 37. Lack of supermarket in sw area. 38. Carrs agricultural depot. 39. Children barred from some shops 40. Lack of investment into attracting visitors. 41. Lack of sophisticated nightlife [2]. 42. Too many night time carry-outs. 43. Bad disabled access. 44. Saturday market. 45. Poor local support for business. 46. No shops for young people. 47. Loud pub music. <p>GREEN SPACES - BEST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River walks incl. easy access [14]. 2. River [9]. 3. Scenic rural locality [2]. 4. Fishing. <p>GREEN SPACES-WORST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State of Everholm. <p>GREEN SPACES - MAKING IT BETTER</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve planting, repair pavilion. <p>STREETS & BUILDINGS - BEST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flower displays [19]. 2. Town hall [6]. 3. Parking facilities [23] 4. Free parking [16]. 5. No traffic jams [3]. 6. Wide High Street [4]. 7. Clean streets [6] 8. War memorial [3]. 9. Former British Linen Bank. 10. New police station [10]. 11. Georgian buildings. 12. Historic "feel" [2]. 13. Human scale. 14. Not too many empty shops. 15. Interesting architecture [5]. 16. Nice old buildings [7]. 17. Historic buildings [3]. 18. Traffic islands on high street. 19. Pleasant environment. <p>STREETS & BUILDINGS MAKING THEM BETTER</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce town centre management. 2. Wider pavements. 3. Better repair and maintenance of roads and pavements. 4. More road sweepers.
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<p>5. More thorough cleaning of roads and pavements.</p> <p>6. Learn from success of other towns, e.g. Castle Douglas, Perth, Peebles.</p> <p>7. Encourage through traffic to use by-pass.</p> <p>8. Improve traffic management at Lady Street/High Street junction.</p> <p>9. Provide either a roundabout or traffic lights at Fish Cross.</p> <p>10. Provide a car park at west end of town.</p> <p>11. More pedestrian crossings, e.g. Fish Cross.</p> <p>12. Repair faulty street lights.</p> <p>13. Improve street lighting, eg Downies Wynd and Murray Street car park.</p> <p>14. Improve pavements for wheelchair users.</p> <p>15. More free car parking.</p> <p>16. More litter bins and bins for disposal of dog excrement.</p> <p>17. Employ a full time traffic warden.</p> <p>18. Improve street signage.</p> <p>19. Increase 1 hour parking limit.</p> <p>20. More litter picking.</p> <p>21. More flower baskets.</p> <p>22. Introduce parking schemes.</p> <p>23. Light up prominent buildings at night.</p> <p>24. Put business rates up for owners who don't maintain their property.</p> <p>25. Place stricter planning obligations on building owners who don't maintain their property.</p> <p>26. Improve look of centre by use of improvement and repair grants.</p> <p>27. Turn vacant space above shops into flats.</p> <p>28. Obtain grants from Solway Heritage to improve buildings.</p> <p>29. "blue plaques" and interpretation panels on significant buildings.</p> <p>30. Demolish Bridge House</p> <p>31. Invite schools to provide window displays</p> <p>32. Use posters or billboards to brighten empty windows until property occupied.</p> <p>33. Introduce tougher by-laws to deal with lack of property maintenance.</p>	<p>9. Parking [18].</p> <p>10. Parking signs.</p> <p>11. Fish Cross as driver/pedestrian [18].</p> <p>12. Dull, needs brightening up [8].</p> <p>13. Dirty, unkempt, neglected-buildings/streets [24].</p> <p>14. Lack of vitality resulting in dilapidation [4].</p> <p>15. Inappropriate period frontages.</p> <p>16. Staggered junction at Lady Street.</p> <p>17. Town Hall.</p> <p>18. No post box in centre section of High St.</p> <p>19. Lack of "prettiness" [2]</p> <p>20. One hour parking [2].</p> <p>21. Lack of pedestrian crossings [6].</p> <p>22. Interesting buildings not maintained.</p> <p>23. Exterior of Corner House.</p> <p>24. Empty properties at High St. / Bank St junction[5].</p> <p>25. Georgian Bridge House.</p> <p>26. Traffic management [3].</p> <p>27. Unightly buildings when you look up.</p> <p>28. Timing of traffic lights [3].</p> <p>29. Needs more flower displays [2].</p> <p>30. Shop frontages [2].</p> <p>31. Volume of through traffic.</p> <p>32. Traffic/parking in Carlyles Place.</p> <p>33. Derelict listed buildings.</p> <p>34. Overload of parking in streets off High St..</p> <p>35. Unkempt flower displays.</p> <p>36. Not attractive or tourist friendly.</p> <p>37. Road calming.</p> <p>38. Pavements not wheelchair friendly.</p> <p>39. "Ladbroke's "building.</p> <p>40. State of High St.</p> <p>41. Lack of focal points, eg. trees.</p>	<p>16. Healthcare provision.</p> <p>17. Doctors surgery.</p> <p>18. Good amenities.</p> <p>19. Facilities for toddlers/youngsters.</p> <p>20. Central bus station.</p> <p>21. Swimming pool [3].</p>
<p>STREETS & BUILDINGS - WORST</p> <p>1. Pavements [4].</p> <p>2. Roads [3].</p> <p>3. Empty shops / properties [61].</p> <p>4. Unkempt empty buildings [17].</p> <p>5. Too much traffic [8].</p> <p>6. Buildings in disrepair [30].</p> <p>7. Empty flats.</p> <p>8. Derelict buildings [12].</p> <p>8. Build a play area.</p>	<p>PUBLIC / COMMUNITY SERVICES</p> <p>BEST</p> <p>1. Sports facilities [4].</p> <p>2. Bus service [7].</p> <p>3. Train service [8].</p> <p>4. Close to Carlisle & Dumfries [3].</p> <p>5. Museum [13].</p> <p>6. Clip ICT.</p> <p>7. Good venue for RoM.</p> <p>8. Transport links [5].</p> <p>9. Christmas lights [3].</p> <p>10. Library [9].</p> <p>11. Leisure facilities.</p> <p>12. CCTV [2].</p> <p>13. Street cleaner [2].</p> <p>14. Public toilets [2].</p> <p>15. RoM.</p>	<p>PUBLIC / COMMUNITY SERVICES</p> <p>WORST</p> <p>1. Phones.</p> <p>2. Toilets.</p> <p>3. High rates [4].</p> <p>4. No activities for teenagers [8].</p> <p>5. Cost of childcare.</p> <p>6. Lack of amenities.</p> <p>7. High rateable values.</p> <p>8. Not enough police patrols [25].</p> <p>9. Planners.</p> <p>10. Some interpretation needed.</p> <p>11. No signs to museum.</p> <p>12. No dog waste bins.</p> <p>13. Need more CCTV.</p> <p>14. Lack of economic development [2].</p> <p>15. Little to attract visitors.</p> <p>16. No social activities.</p> <p>17. Street lighting [5].</p> <p>18. Not enough wardens.</p> <p>19. Traffic warden.</p> <p>20. Subsidy of rates for small businesses.</p> <p>21. High council tax [3].</p> <p>22. Bins.</p> <p>23. Lack of council encouragement for business.</p> <p>24. Library building [2].</p> <p>25. Lack of pedestrian crossings [5].</p> <p>26. Tourist information [2].</p> <p>27. Focussed community information.</p> <p>28. No-go area at night.</p> <p>29. No town centre management.</p> <p>30. Lack of a museum/art gallery.</p>
		<p>PUBLIC / COMMUNITY SERVICES</p> <p>MAKING THEM BETTER</p> <p>1. More visible policing, more foot patrols at critical times.</p> <p>2. More CCTV.</p> <p>3. More Council encouragement for business and economic development.</p> <p>4. Involve schools more in community projects.</p> <p>5. More youth groups, a youth centre, facilities for younger people.</p> <p>6. More community fundraising for worthwhile projects.</p> <p>7. More partnership working.</p> <p>8. Build a play area.</p>

<p>9. Provide a drug abuse support scheme. 10. Improve cultural facilities. 11. Open an art gallery. 12. A larger museum. 13. A community arts & crafts exhibition centre. 14. A tourist information office using one of the empty properties. 15. Greater effort to encourage visitors.</p> <p>BEHAVIOUR - BEST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friendly people [18]. 2. No litter. 3. Safe environment. 4. Good community spirit. <p>BEHAVIOUR - WORST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crowds of youths [9]. 2. Too many druggies [3]. 3. Litter [32]. 4. Groups of youths, evenings/ weekends [31]. 5. Apathy / lack of town spirit [2]. 6. Schoolchildren at lunchtime [19]. 7. Pubs full of teenagers 8. Hooligans [4]. 9. Graffiti [4]. 10. Chewing gum on pavements [9]. 11. Theft & petty crime [6]. 12. Vandalism [22]. 13. Dog fouling [16]. 14. General untidiness [3]. 15. Drunks. 16. Underage gangs drinking on street [2]. 17. Boorishness [2]. 18. Parking at bus stop 19. Cycling on pavement. 20. Big issue seller. 21. Salvation Army man. 22. Boy racers [2]. 23. Vandalism of flower displays. 24. Not a safe environment for women at night. <p>BEHAVIOUR - MAKING IT BETTER</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More police foot patrols to discourage anti-social behaviour. 2. Community wardens. 3. Stricter enforcement of law. 4. Zero tolerance of drug & drink related crime. 5. Make vandals pay for damage. 6. Impose fines for dropping litter, not picking up and properly disposing of dog excrement, spitting, and disorderly behaviour. 7. Consult young people to find out their needs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Encourage young people to get more involved in sporting activities. 9. Improve the self-esteem of young people and their consideration for others. 10. An evening curfew for teenagers. 11. Greater cooperation with Academy involving shopkeepers and police. 12. Keep years S1- S3 on school premises at lunchtime. 13. More supervision of pupils at lunchtime by teachers or prefects. 14. Improve school catering. 15. Make Academy pupils welcome. 16. Greater public education about benefits of rejecting anti-social behaviour. 17. More litter bins and bins for disposal of dog excrement. 18. A machine to remove chewing gum from pavements. 19. Enforce no parking at bus stop. 	
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