

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

In respect of

Dursley Town Council GL0082

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2019; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

2 External auditor report 2018/19

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with *Proper Practices* and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None

3 External auditor certificate 2018/19

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2019.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

Date

30/07/2019

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2018/19 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

Suggestions Received from Dursley Residents – Summer 2019

Brief description of suggestion	Some more detail (if provided)	Comment (Town Clerk)
Introduction of a new cinema in Dursley similar to the one in Wotton-Under-Edge to avoid travel expenses, suggests 'drake house' as a potential venue		
Suggestion of a new roundabout by Sainsbury's, near the pedestrian crossing	N/A	Forward to GCC Highways – Local Highway Manager.
Introduction of a new bus service through the Littlecombe estate	Perhaps making existing bus services more frequent	Forward to GCC - Local Transport team.
Hold a meeting with the handful of people who own all the town centre properties and discuss potential investments that people want to make		
Develop marketing of Dursley as a destination on the Cotswold way		Dursley Welcomes Walkers/Cotswold Edge & Severn Vale groups.
The introduction of a one-way system around Highfields estate	In order to increase road safety for children	<p>This was forwarded to GCC, following a similar request at the 2019 Annual Assembly. The response from GCC Highways:</p> <p><i>Fully understand local concerns regarding road safety, particularly for cyclists, and that a one-way system could create a feeling of a safer highway experience. However, the current two-way arrangement does mean that vehicles need to slow down when passing each other. By changing to a one-way system it is likely to increase vehicle speeds as drivers can drive faster as they do not expect oncoming vehicles. This will both increase road safety concerns but also result in longer one-way loop journeys for many local residents, as well as for emergency vehicles. Additionally many of the bends on Highfields are very pronounced and would require a greater width to allow larger vehicles to manoeuvre through safely – this would likely require parking on-street parking space which will not be popular as parking availability is restricted already. However, if DTC would like GCC Highways to commission a study on their behalf, I can certainly arrange for this to be carried out and obtain an initial cost for you.</i></p>
More shops, shoes (shoe shops?) and tailors in Dursley	States that otherwise Dursley is fairly good	

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<p>The approach into the town centre from Cam (the old Dursley motors building) has been described as a big eyesore</p>	<p>States that they're not sure what can be done about it.</p>	<p>Planned Development Site.</p>
<p>Improvements can be made to the pavement near Oxfam. It has been described as far too narrow.</p>	<p>Difficult for people in wheelchairs</p>	<p>This was forwarded to GCC, following a similar request at the 2019 Annual Assembly. The response from GCC Highways:</p> <p><i>This has been recently been inspected following concerns regarding the kerb height and width for wheelchair access. The footway is historically narrow in parts. Any new kerb height will offer very little possibly only 1-2cm which is both uneconomical and offers very little return. As we discussed on site previously, to widen the footway could only be achieved by reducing the width of the carriageway. This would introduce a moving traffic issue as the carriageway width would then not allow vehicles to pass one another safely</i></p>
<p>Suggests recycling the litter bins in the town.</p>		<p>Forward to Stroud District Council – Public Spaces</p>
<p>Better bus services in Dursley, suggests introducing a more frequent 'dedicated' service from Dursley to cam and Dursley rail station.</p>		<p>Forward to GCC - Local Transport team.</p>
<p>Co-working space for small and micro businesses and also for self-employed people.</p>		
<p>Regarding the area of the lay-by and steps at Highfields approach and Roseberry mount, there is untold rubbish in the area left by the workman consisting of bottles, cans, black bags etc and a lot of growth which is getting worse daily, in fact the whole area is an eyesore. People have now started dumping rubbish at the bottom of the steps.</p>	<p>States they appreciate the work the council has done in removing the overhanging trees</p>	<p>Forward to Stroud District Council – Public Spaces/Neighbourhood Warden</p>
<p>Would like to have a speed restriction of some sort , or camera, to cut down speeding motorist noise (from bull pitch to the market place and vice versa) most towns have speed limits painted on the road as well as local signs and would like these to be put in place. Large vehicles and lorries continually mount the pavements to get by from oncoming traffic,</p>	<p>States that traffic has increased tenfold over the years (resident has lived in silver street for 25 years) and is going to get worse. With more houses primed to be built, Sooner or later something will have to be done, also states that many local residents would like to see something similar along the lines that have been mentioned.</p>	<p>This was forwarded to GCC, following a similar request at the 2019 Annual Assembly. The response from GCC Highways:</p> <p><i>The fear of speed is an understandable concern for local people. At present, prescribed signage is provided as a clear statement of the required speed for vehicles; although as we know unfortunately not all drivers take heed of these visual reminders. Obviously, the requirement to enforce speeding is one for the Police to perform under</i></p>

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<p>they have been poorly maintained for years. This discourages people from shopping in this part of town, making it hard for traders.</p>		<p><i>their legal remit to enforce moving traffic offences - would encourage all local reports are directed to them. Although enforcement will generally have the desired effect to manage speed, other local initiatives should also be considered e.g. speed activated warning signs which could be deployed by local means to hot spot areas</i></p>
<p>New Watering Cans and new tap fittings at Kingshill Cemetery.</p>		<p>To be considered by Green Spaces Committee</p>
<p>Please check office opening hours on the DTC website</p>		<p>This has been updated by the Town Clerk.</p>
<p>Silver Street – Create a speed table (similar to Sainsbury's in Castle Street)</p>		<p>This was forwarded to GCC, following a similar request at the 2019 Annual Assembly. The response from GCC Highways:</p> <p><i>This has been recently been inspected following concerns regarding the kerb height and width for wheelchair access. The footway is historically narrow in parts. Any new kerb height will offer very little possibly only 1-2cm which is both uneconomical and offers very little return. As we discussed on site previously, to widen the footway could only be achieved by reducing the width of the carriageway. This would introduce a moving traffic issue as the carriageway width would then not allow vehicles to pass one another safely</i></p>
<p>I would love to see Dursley town centre looking as attractive, visitor-friendly and quintessentially Cotswolds as other towns in our area.</p>	<p>I would like to see shops and businesses given mandatory guidance on signage design and colours. Empty units could also be repainted in a uniform heritage colour to encourage others to follow suit. Some business really do it well with attractive and tasteful signage that enhance the look of our beautiful older buildings - Belle's Cafe, Hunters, Della Casa, Bank and the refurbishment of The Kings Head come instantly to mind. However, I feel many of our shop signs look tacky, garish and ugly and I know this is a view shared by others. I would love to see Dursley looking its best; there is so much ancient and natural beauty in the town and I don't feel quite enough is done to show it off.</p>	

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<p>Paint the town!</p> <p>I believe that painting the buildings of the pedestrian high street in a selection of vibrant colours would make the town eye-catching and inviting. It could help attract locals and tourists to shop here, as well as encourage new businesses to try a lease.</p>	<p>The colours could be distinct to the flowers and fauna found in the cotswolds, emphasising the area's connection with its environment.</p>	
<p>Parsonage Street could be closed to deliveries for a few hours over the middle of the day then businesses could spill further out into the pedestrian space or pop up events could be programmed to attract families and young people?</p> <p>Build a skate park on the Rec</p> <p>With the collapse of high street shops due to online shopping, I believe that high streets are a hub for people that are using the area for entertainment and sport. It is a place that people spend time because they have come to the area for something else.</p>	<p>There is a nationwide need to reinvent the high street and I believe that means we need to think of new ways those spaces are used.</p>	
	<p>A world class outdoor skate park would be a permanent feature that would attract locals of all ages and visitors from further afield. With the internationally respected Rush Skatepark in Stroud and the soon to be completed static wave in Thornbury we could place Dursley on the map for action sports enthusiasts. There is also talk of a snowdome being built in Swindon in the near future. Jenny Jones, from Bristol, was our first medal winning winter sports Olympian in the snowboarding freestyle, and there is a legacy in the South West region that has never been capitalised on.</p>	