

Wychavon to allocate £150,000 to support high street plans

Following the well received retail seminar in January when the south Worcestershire councils were urged to be 'brave' by a regeneration expert in order to create high streets fit for the future, Wychavon are submitting a bid to the Future High Streets Fund and allocating £150,000 to support masterplans for their three towns.

At the end of last year the Government opened up calls for proposals for the fund which set out a process and criteria to allocate £675million. The funding must go towards capital projects to transform town centres through innovative proposals focused on transport, housing delivery and public services.

District councils are leading nationally and the criteria has been assessed in detail by Wychavon officers. The results of the assessment have found that that Evesham town centre best lends itself to the first round of proposals which, if successful would focus on the redevelopment of the Riverside Shopping Centre and support the Evesham Transport Strategy and town plan aspirations.

Cllr. Bradley Thomas, Leader of Wychavon said "Following the event with south Worcestershire councils we feel confident our bid will be given serious consideration. From the initial criteria we have clearly identified that Evesham has the strongest chance of being successful and the funding would give much needed support."

Cllr. Richard Morris, Deputy Leader – economic growth and tourism portfolio holder said "As well as the bid I'm very pleased that we have agreed to allocate £150,000 of our own money for Droitwich Spa, Evesham and Pershore for town centre master planning. This will provide evidence for any future town centre funding bids and help them to start planning for their futures. Our town centres are the life blood of our towns and we want to help them to thrive."

A second round of bids will be opened up in 2020 and at this point Droitwich Spa and Pershore will be considered for submission.