

**Wiltshire Council**

**Environment Select Committee**

**6 June 2023**

**Agenda Item 7 – Public Participation**

**Questions from: Campbell Ritchie, Chair of Malmesbury Town Team CiC**

**Question 1 (23-03)**

Cllr Najjar made a comprehensive statement to the March meeting of the Environment Select Committee correcting information it had been given about Malmesbury Town Team's 'Explore Malmesbury' Web App at its January meeting. This is included in the Minutes of the Environment Select Committee's March meeting. As of the date of writing this question no follow up contact has been made by Cllr Najjar and or officers with Malmesbury Town Team since the Environment Select Committee's March meeting and outstanding questions from Malmesbury Town Team, for example in its email of the 20th April and follow up have not been answered:

*"20th April 2023*

*Dear <redacted officer name>*

*Cc: <redacted other officer> + Cllrs Najjar, Kunkler, Mathew and Grant*

*Malmesbury Town Team is disappointed you have not replied to the question in my email below of the 14th March.*

*However, we are obviously looking forward to being included with the launch of the Heritage App alongside the first ten Heritage Towns. Based on the previous advice given to the Environment Select Committee that the initial launch is Spring 2023, this must be due in the next few weeks? To this end, it would be helpful to have a better understanding of the expected timing and messaging for the launch and any information you would like from us.*

*We would also like to start working alongside the first ten Heritage App towns in the appropriate way with the Heritage Centre team on developing future content for Explore Malmesbury. It would be great if you or <redacted officer name> could outline how you would like us to do this using the appropriate resources. This will also be helpful as we start to develop material for Malmesbury's nationally significant 'Athelstan 1100' celebration in 2024.*

*Thanks and best regards*

*Campbell Ritchie"*

Why has this been chosen as the appropriate course of action by Cllr Najjar and officers in the circumstances of such a highly unusual and concerning situation arising and the common ground of achieving the best outcomes for residents across the county?

### **Response**

We apologise for the delay in confirming, these requests were passed on immediately for the app build which has been taking place over the previous couple of months. Until this stage was complete, we were unable to confirm the exact arrangements for Malmesbury.

### **Question 2 (23-04)**

What arrangements are being made to directly include 'Explore Malmesbury' in the first roll out of the Wiltshire Heritage App and the associated publicity for this first roll out, as confirmed by Cllr Najjar to Malmesbury Town Team by email on the 9th March 2023: *"I can confirm that the Heritage Centre would be pleased to support Explore Malmesbury in developing further content, and that we do intend to promote Explore Malmesbury through the heritage app."*?

### **Response**

With the build nearing completion, we are able to confirm the creation of a place on the App for Malmesbury so it will appear at the same high level as other market towns. When Malmesbury is selected, this link will provide an introduction to the town, an explanation of the Explore Malmesbury web app, and a hyperlink to direct users to the website. Wiltshire Council will also be highlighting the Malmesbury trails in planned publicity.