

ARUNDEL TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGER WORKING GROUP REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2020

Progress

1. In the budget for 2020/21 the full employment cost of the Town Manager was included. During this year, the Council has agreed the job description for the Town Manager and the organisational framework within which they would work.

Issues

2. The situation has been affected by Covid-19 in a number of ways:
 - a) as noted at the July Council meeting, we face a significant loss of income from weddings and other functions in the Town Hall.
 - b) we have incurred some unbudgeted costs which will not be recoverable from other sources.
 - c) whilst Arun District Council have agreed that we could deploy the £10,000 joint-budget for new events in the town towards the costs of the Town Manager this year, their own financial position would make it difficult for them to provide any additional support.
 - d) similarly, whilst in normal times there would be a business case for inviting Arundel businesses and attractions to contribute to the costs of the Town Manager, economic circumstances make this very difficult in 2020/21.

For these reasons, the affordability of this role in the short term needs to be reviewed.

In addition:

- e) given other priorities, it has not been possible to agree with ADC the organisational structure approved by Arundel Town Council in July.
 - f) the working group's engagement with the project has been limited by the other priorities arising from Covid-19.
3. However the experience of 2020 has further underlined the potential value of a Town Manager in Arundel. Recovery from lockdown and the re-opening of the High Street would have been helped by this role.

Looking Ahead

4. In the short term there will be a gap in event planning/support

5. Arundel will have some additional resource from Arundel Marketing Group which is being established, and will benefit from the two new websites.

Next Steps

6. The Working Group need to review how to move forward.

Arundel Town Council-Town Manager Report, September 2020

2nd September 2020