

**South West Heritage Trust (SWHT) Report  
Heritage, Arts and Culture Committee  
20.02.2020**

**Temporary Exhibitions:**

***From Village to Town: Weston-super-Mare's Built Heritage*  
(in-house exhibition in partnership with North Somerset Council and Historic England)**  
**2020 Slot 1: Saturday 9 February 2020 to Sunday 10 May 2020**  
**Project Lead: Amal Khreisheh (Curator of Archaeology)**

This exhibition brings together objects, images and film to tell the story of Weston-super-Mare's architectural development over the past 250 years. It expands on Historic England's new publication 'Weston-super-Mare: The Town and its Seaside Heritage'.

The exhibition celebrates a complex and remarkable heritage which reflects Weston's transformation from a small village to a busy seaside resort.

A private view of this exhibition was held on Friday 14 February 2020 from 6.00 to 8.00 pm. The private view was well-attended and initial feedback about the exhibition has been very positive.

***Wild Hares and Hummingbirds: The Natural History of an English Village*  
(in-house exhibition developed in partnership with Stephen Moss)**  
**2020 Slot 2: Saturday 23 May 2020 to Sunday 13 September 2020**  
**Project Lead: Sarah Cox (Exhibitions and Programme Manager)**

A multi-sensory, interactive exhibition for families based on the best-selling book of the same name by Stephen Moss, one of Britain's leading natural history writers, broadcasters and wildlife television producers. The exhibition brings together Stephen's celebrated nature writing with beautiful, original illustrations by the graphic artist Stephanie Cole.

The exhibition focuses on the natural history of the village of Mark in Somerset and encourages visitors to explore how it changes with the seasons and learn about its animals and plants.

***Ivy Millicent James Suffragette Artist (working title)*  
(in-house exhibition)**  
**2020 Slot 3: Saturday 19 September 2020 to Sunday 31 January 2021 (to be confirmed)**  
**Project Lead: Michele Green (Assistant Curator)**

This exhibition will showcase the work of Weston artist Ivy Millicent James (1879-1965), a celebrated postcard artist. She made her name at the turn of the century in the postcard boom that spread across Europe due to the development of mass travel and the growing popularity of summer holiday resorts. The exhibition will feature a selection of her original watercolours, postcard and Christmas card designs, sketchbooks and personal effects from the North Somerset Council museum collections.

## **Damp in the Temporary Exhibition Gallery**

Dampness in the temporary exhibition cupboard has started to affect the demountable cases and walling system. Significant parts of the cases are going rusty and the boards used for the walling are bending out of shape.

Previous attempts to reduce the dampness with a dehumidifier placed in the cupboard and the stacking of the Panelock walling to allow air to circulate have not been effective. The dampness also affects the environmental conditions within the gallery and in the longer term will have a significant impact on the types of exhibitions that can be installed.

Steve Matthews, surveyor for Weston-Super-Mare Town Council, will contact a mechanical engineer to investigate if mechanical ventilation can be installed to contend with the build-up of moisture within the room. A meeting has been organised on 19 March 2020 to explore these issues and look at next steps.

### **Recommendation:**

Members are requested to note the report.

## 1 Great Weston Heritage Action Zone- update report March 2020

Over five years (Sept 2017- August 2022), the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) aims to boost economic growth and keep Weston-super-Mare on the map as a great place to live and work in.

## 2 Awareness raising / engagement programme update

2.1 WH Smith has gained Grade II listed building status

2.2 Work Feb-May

- **Chamber of Commerce awards:** awards 07 Feb 2020.
- **Museum 'Built Heritage' exhibition** engagement programme in partnership with the Museum: 08 Feb- 09 May 2020.
- **Built Heritage exhibition-** private View 14 Feb 2020
- **Heritage Open Days** planning meeting 20 Feb. 20
- **Series of lectures with Civic Society-** March/ April/May to link with exhibition
- **Culture/ Health/ Heritage weekend in Weston:** Friday 03-Sunday 05 April
- **Hans Price Walk-** launch and Guided walk 3 April 10.30
- Launch of **High Street HAZ** in April/ May

In February 2020 I have submitted an application to Historic England for further funding for 2020/21.

## 2.3 Heritage Open Days 11-20 September 2020: Theme- Hidden Nature

"We want Hidden Nature to encompass the broadest possible spectrum of events, opening up areas of the countryside that aren't normally accessible to the public and revealing the hidden history of not just our natural landscapes, but also gardens, green spaces, urban parks, orchards, vineyards, farms and forests. Nature isn't just found in the great outdoors and our theme could also give you the opportunity to explore the Hidden Nature within our urban spaces and buildings - from the animals that live within our walls and under our feet to the origins of the timbers in our roofs, the possibilities to connect with our natural world are endless." From Heritage Open Days web site .

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/hidden-nature>

Next Weston HODS planning meeting 23April 10.30. Emmanuel church Hall.

## 3 Shopfront Design Guide

- The shopfront design guide was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document on 24<sup>th</sup> September
- The guide also covers guidance on conversion from shops to residential.
- We are keen to promote this widely and ensure retailers know about it. Any help that WTC can give in promotion of the policy is welcome.



#### 4 Shopfront enhancement grants scheme for Weston

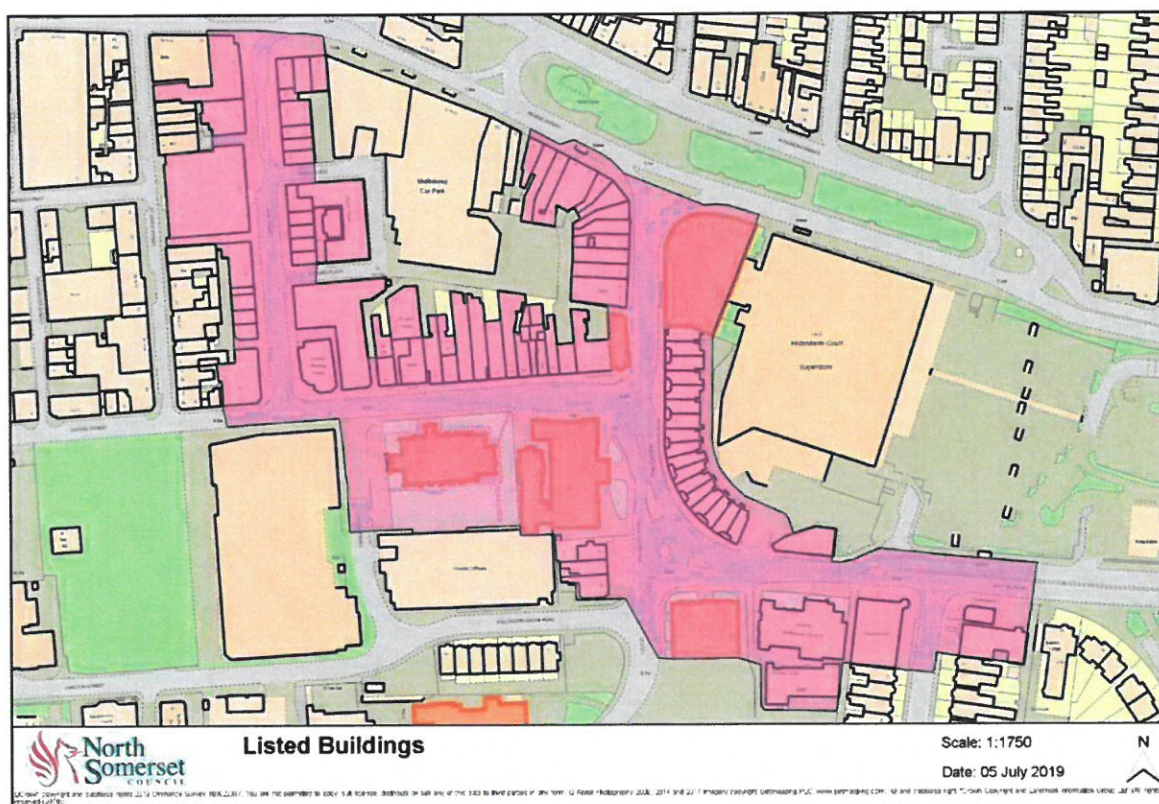
- The shopfront enhancement scheme for Weston was launched October 2019. To date Walker & Ling (High Street) has signed up.
- 8, -12 South Parade and 3-9 Meadow street, as well as a few other properties have confirmed an interest and we are awaiting feedback from them.
- We are procuring contractors for the works through a Dynamic Purchasing Solution (developing a list of preferred contractors, who will then tender for work on each building)

#### 5. High Street Heritage Action Zone funding application

We have been successful in our Expression of Interest for up to £1,201,000 to gain High Street Heritage Action Zone status.

We submitted a full project delivery plan in December 2019. We will hear mid to late March the result of our full plan and how much funding we will gain. The scheme will launch April 2020. Although due to the lateness of hearing back from Historic England we may not have staff in post until September 2020, as we are unable to recruit until we have an offer letter/ signed agreement with the funder.

Below is a map of the High Street HAZ area with listed buildings highlighted.



#### 6. Wider picture update

- North Somerset Council has embarked on a consultation exercise to develop a 'Placemaking strategy' for Weston. The consultants are Turner Works.
- Link to Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SuperWestonMare/>

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