

Place and Resources Overview Committee – 25 February 2021

Agenda item 5 – Public Participation

Question from John Calvert

Item 8 Tourist Information Centre Funding

The Executive Summary comments that TICs provide the following key services:
~ free information including maps, local attractions and events, general information about the local area, bus/transport provision and information about accessibility ~ ticket sales for some transport providers and for local events
~accommodation information and booking for the local area.

As a resident of Dorchester for over 10 years I have used the Dorchester Tourist Information for all these when they were available and I use them in other towns every time my wife and I visit for the first time.

This situation is not recent, there were plans for the TIC to go into the Shire Hall but then there weren't. The obvious next place was the new Library but no plans there. Finally the reorganisation of the Corn Exchange surely offered possibilities.

The response from Dorchester Town Council is sympathetic but seemingly at an early stage.

My question is this - If Tourism is so important for Dorset and in particular for Dorchester why is the Council stopping the funding and releasing the expert staff before agreeing a replacement service?

Some transitional funding is no substitute for proper planning.