

Walsall Council Heritage Strategy 2021 - 2026



Walsall Council has written a **Heritage Strategy**.



Heritage is related to things from the past, such as historical buildings and **cultural traditions**.



Cultural traditions are the ideas, beliefs and interests of different people and the way they have done things in the past.



A **Strategy** is our overall plan for work over a period of time.



Walsall is proud of its heritage. The **borough** is famous for its **industrial** heritage, including leather goods, **metalwork** and **mining**.



Borough is the area that you live in.



Industrial means businesses that provide lots of different goods and services, such as leather goods.



Metalwork is the skill of making things from metal.



Mining is where you dig things out of the ground, like coal.



People are an important part of our heritage. This Strategy will show how it can make people happier. We want to make Walsall a better place to live in.



We will work in **partnership** with others to improve our heritage. It will help the **economy**, the **environment** and our health.



Partnership is where different people and groups work together. We call people or groups that work together **partners**.



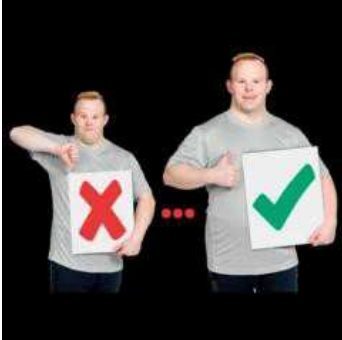
The **economy** is about things like money, businesses and buying and selling things.



The **environment** is things like the air we breathe and the park where we meet and spend time.



Over the next few years, we want to make heritage important to everyone.



We want heritage to make a big difference to the success and happiness of people in Walsall. It can create jobs and get people to visit Walsall.



We will ask people to get involved and do more good things for our **communities**.



Communities are the areas and the people where you live.



We have a **vision** for our heritage in Walsall.



A **vision** is how we see our plans for the future.



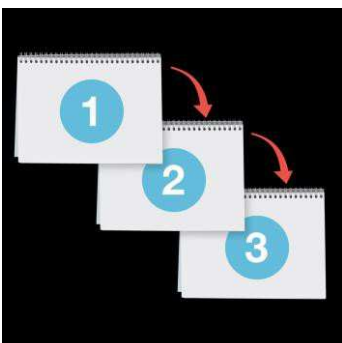
We want to do more with our heritage and make Walsall a town to be proud of, now and in the future.



We want to make communities excited and interested about our heritage in Walsall and get everyone involved.



How will we do this?



We will do this by



- Working in partnership with lots of different people and organisations.



- Looking at different ways in which we can work with our communities and listening to their views.



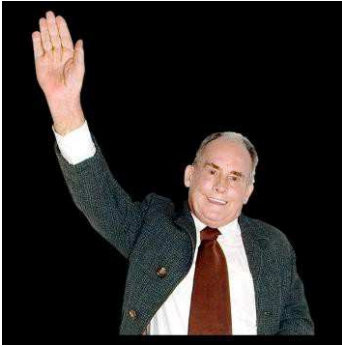
- Asking people to get involved and finding out what they want from Walsall's heritage.



- Being **flexible** so that we can make sure that our Heritage Strategy is **relevant** and **realistic**.



Flexible means that we can keep up with any change over the next few years.



Relevant means that heritage is for and about all the different people who live in Walsall.



Realistic means making sure that we can do good things for our communities.



Our Heritage Strategy has 4 **objectives**.



Objectives are the aims of our Strategy. What we want it to do.



Objective 1 **Quality of life** and **wellbeing**.



Quality of life means making the lives of people better.



Wellbeing means feeling happy and healthy in your body and mind.



We will help communities that need it most.



We will do lots of things that will help our communities to enjoy life, by improving health, the economy, learning and **volunteering**.



Volunteering is when someone gives their time for free.



How will we meet the 1st objective?



- We will create a volunteer programme.



- We will find ways for communities that need it the most to get involved with our heritage.



- We will look at ways to help people get access to activities around health, learning and volunteering.



Objective 2 **Sense of place** and celebration.



Sense of place is the way we feel about the borough we live in.



We want to make Walsall accessible and a nice place for everybody to visit.



We will celebrate our heritage and make it really important to the people of Walsall.



We will work in partnership to help lots of different people to find more ways to get involved in heritage.



How will we meet the 2nd objective?



- We will look at how we can make heritage more accessible for everyone.



- We will look after and let people know about our historic buildings and places better.



- We will create a calendar of **activities** to celebrate our heritage.



Activities are things we like doing or may like to try.



Objective 3 **Climate Change.**



The world is getting hotter. This is causing lots of bad things to happen more often, like floods, forest fires and hurricanes. This is **climate change**.



We will help people learn about the importance of climate change and how to look after our parks and green spaces.



How will we meet the 3rd objective?



- We will write a plan about our historic buildings and look at our green spaces to make sure people know that climate change is really important.



Objective 4 **Building Resilience**.



Building resilience means a person or a community being strong whenever they go through bad or hard times. Resilience is about never giving up.



We will work in partnership to give everyone the chance to be involved in our future plans. We will support activities about our heritage and tell people about the good things that have happened with our heritage.



How will we meet the 4th objective?



- We will work with our partners to help and support the communities of Walsall.



- We will provide training.



- We will create new heritage **projects** and help people and groups to apply for **funding**.



Projects are where someone or a group of people come together to achieve an aim.



Funding is a sum of money given to a person or group for a reason, such as heritage projects.



- We will work with partners to create a **Heritage Forum**.



A **Heritage Forum** is a meeting where a group of people can discuss something. People that are part of a forum are called **members**.



The Heritage Forum will help us with our Heritage Strategy and will support members to work together to make heritage accessible to everyone.



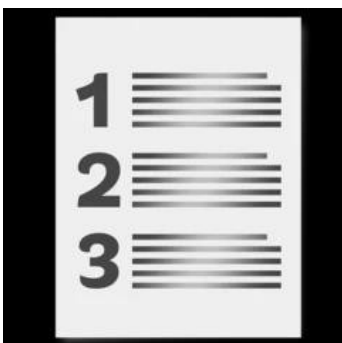
Walsall Council and the Heritage Forum will work together and share the things we have, like skills and information. We will support each other to make sure our Strategy works for the people of Walsall.



Over the next five 5 years Walsall Council staff and the Heritage Forum will keep checking on the success of the Heritage Strategy.



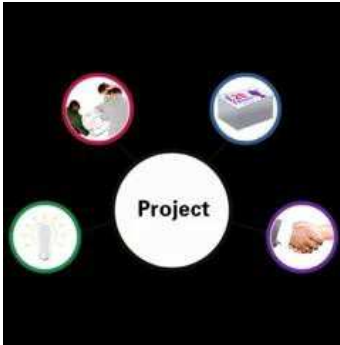
Every year, we will tell you if we are doing well and if our Strategy is working.



There is an **action plan** for our Heritage Strategy.



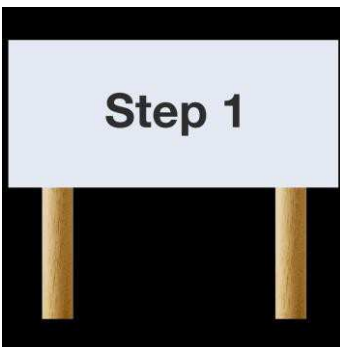
An **action plan** tells us what we need to do to make sure our Strategy works.



The action plan tells us what projects will help us meet the vision and objectives of the Heritage Strategy.



The action plan has 3 important steps.



1. Early Walsall Council Actions

These actions will be the 1st set of projects started. They will be delivered by Walsall Council.



Some of the projects here include



- Setting up a Heritage Forum, to celebrate the things we do well and learn from the things we don't do so well.



- Looking at the accessibility of our Heritage Strategy, to make sure that everything we do is accessible.



2. **Catalyst** Projects

These projects will help us do things quickly and make things better for our communities.



A **catalyst** is someone or something that makes more things happen.



Some of the projects here include



- Walsall in Pictures - over 10,000 photographs of Walsall will be put on to a computer for people to look at.



- Making our canals nicer.



- Looking to improve attractions like the Leather Museum.



- An **audit** of our green spaces.



An **audit** is a way of making sure that services for people are working well.



3. Pipeline Projects

These are projects we aim to do. If the catalyst projects are working well and we can get funding for our pipeline projects, we will start them.



A **pipeline** is something that is being planned and may happen at a later time.



Some of the projects here include



- Supporting heritage skills.



We want new people to learn lots of older skills like leatherwork.



- Starting new heritage projects with Schools, Colleges and Universities.



Our partners and communities gave us some very good ideas. We put them on our **ideas board**. Some of these ideas have already become part of our action plan. We may use other good ideas in the future.



An **ideas board** is a place where you keep all your good ideas.



Some of the projects here include



- Helping the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community to be treated fairly.



- A project that lets people take boat trips on the canal at the Walsall Wharf.



- A project that records people's memories of important buildings in Walsall that we are at **risk** of losing.



Risk means the possibility of something bad happening.



Thank you for taking the time to read this easy read version of our Heritage Strategy.



If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, or if you want more information, please telephone 07876 468450 or email heritagestrategy@walsall.gov.uk