

THI UPDATE

Willenhall Townscape Heritage Initiative

Welcome to the first issue of the Willenhall THI Update, the newsletter designed to inform and keep you up to date with what is happening in the regeneration scheme.

Grants for your building

The Willenhall Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) grant scheme has been established to help with the cost of repairing, restoring and reusing historic buildings. The aim of the initiative is to regenerate this part of Willenhall through improving its historic buildings. The scheme is being funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and VIEW (Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall) and administered by Walsall Council. The scheme will run until October 2013.

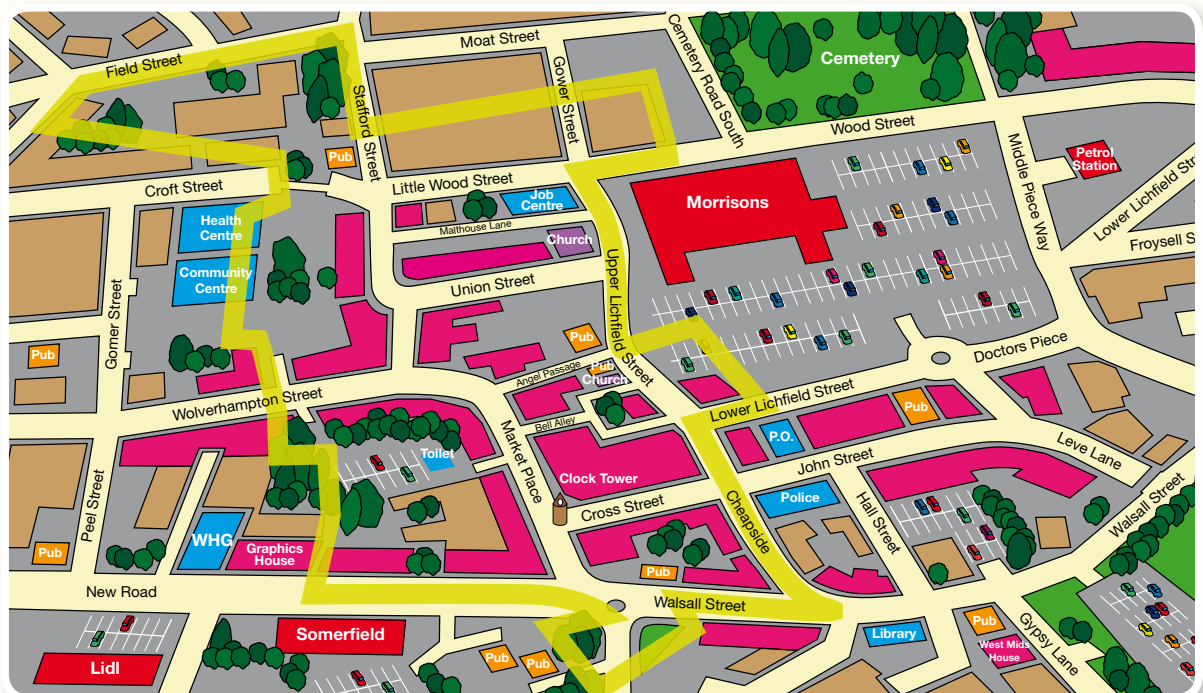
Grants are available for

- The external repair of the building, for example repairs to roofs, windows, brickwork, render and shopfronts
- Putting back architectural features, such as traditional shopfronts, sash windows and cast iron rainwater goods
- Bringing vacant floorspace back into use for example vacant floors above shops and empty shops

Contact Mandy Hall for more information on 01922 654757 or email THIprojectmanager@walsall.gov.uk

Willenhall Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Area

Designated by the green line



Walsall Council



Project Update



The first two grants have been awarded under the Willenhall THI.

Grants have been given to Blunts at 30 Market Place and Holyhead Travel at 32 Cross Street.

30 Market Place is locally listed and works will include repairs to the 19th century frontage including the shopfront and windows. Works will also be undertaken to the main building which dates back to the late 18th century.

32 Cross Street is an early 19th century building that is also locally listed. Works will include repair works to the building and the reinstatement of a traditional shopfront.

Several other projects are currently in the pipeline and details of these will be contained in future issues.

Before



During



Before



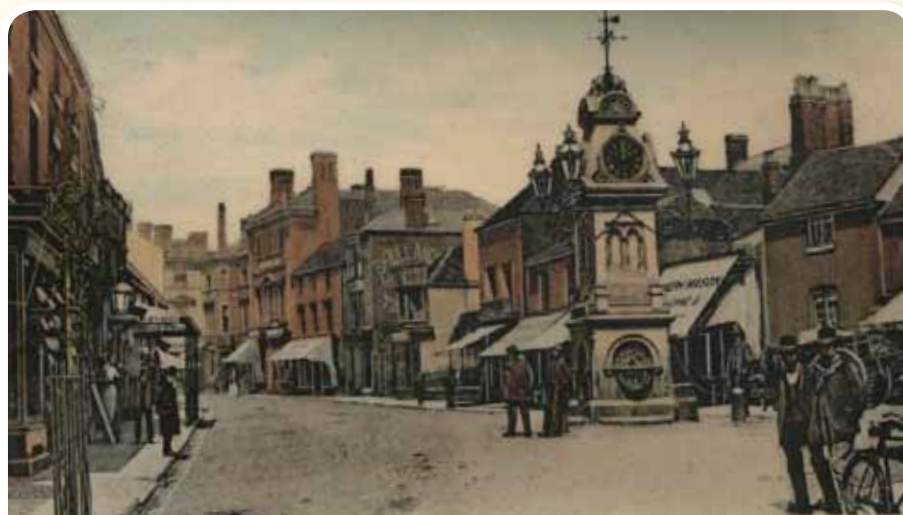
During



Willenhall Conservation Area

Did you know that Willenhall town centre is a conservation area?

Conservation areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest. Willenhall conservation area was designated in 1977 and is based on the historic heart of the town centre including Market Place, Cross Street and Stafford Street. The area has retained a high proportion of Georgian and Victorian buildings. Upper Lichfield Street and Cheapside provide heritage buildings including factories, churches, public houses that evidence the range of activities that historically supported and served the town centre.



Market Place, Willenhall.

© Walsall Museums Service

English Heritage have carried out a survey of conservation areas and they identified that conservation areas are at risk from neglect and decay or being spoilt by unsympathetic changes including:

- unsympathetic replacement doors and windows, particularly in plastic and upvc
- the impact of advertisements
- alterations to front elevations, roofs and chimneys
- the amount of street clutter

Even small scale changes and alterations to buildings which may seem trivial, can seriously detract from the character and appearance of the conservation area and the overall qualities of the area.

Willenhall Conservation Area is one that has been identified by English Heritage as 'at risk'. The Willenhall THI scheme is aiming to improve the conservation area through offering grants to repair

and reinstate historic features.

But we would also like to encourage residents to be aware of the impact any alterations they make to their property has on the conservation area.

For further information please view the Walsall Council Willenhall Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and the English Heritage Conservation Areas at Risk campaign.



Maintenance *Top Tips*

Regular inspection and maintenance can help prevent the need for expensive repair later on. Each issue of the newsletter will look at a different cause of building decay.

This issue will look at:

Rainwater Disposal

The consequences of poor maintenance of rainwater goods can include damage to external brickwork and render, the decay of timber and damp patches on internal walls and ceilings.

What to look for:

- Blockage (caused by debris such as leaves)
- Leaks
- Missing sections of pipe
- Inadequate falls
- Green algae/vegetation on adjacent walls

What to do:

- Every spring and autumn clear plants, leaves and silt from the gutters, hopper, heads and gullies
- Have gutters refixed if they are sloping the wrong way
- Replace any missing sections
- Remove vegetation from behind downpipes
- Retain historic fabric where possible

Help for your business

District Centre Management Team

Walsall Council's District Centre Management Team works with the business partnerships in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall to provide support to local businesses and promote the district centres to shoppers, residents and visitors.

The partnerships have 5 key objectives:

- Partnership Development and Business Support
- Environment
- Security
- Events and Marketing
- Regeneration

For more information about the partnership for Willenhall, please contact Diane Mansell – Regeneration Officer for Darlaston and Willenhall 01922 654326

For further details about the Willenhall THI grant scheme and to obtain an application pack contact:

Mandy Hall, Regeneration Officer, Delivery and Development, Regeneration, Walsall Council, 2nd Floor, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG

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