

THE EAST MIDLANDS MARKET TOWNS

A TEMPLATE FOR FUTURE PROSPERITY

SUBMISSION FOR SECOND ROUND

1. **Town**

Lutterworth
Leicestershire

2. **Name of Town Partnership**

Lutterworth Improvement Partnership - (LIP)

3. **Key Partner and Contact Details**

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4. **Aims & Objectives of the Partnerships**

- Consolidation of retail and economic vitality of the town centre
- Improvement of the quality of the town centre environment
- Removal of non-essential traffic from High Street/Market Street
- Development of a Voluntary Sector/Citizen's Advice Bureau/One Stop Shop facility
- Development of a central Tourist Information Centre

- Development of community and social facilities in the town to standards set out in the template, geared to the needs of local residents, both in the town and its hinterland.

5. **Members of the Partnership**

De Bradelei Mill Shop, Lutterworth
 Harborough District Council
 Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce & Industry
 Leicestershire Constabulary
 Lutterworth Citizens Advice Bureau
 Lutterworth Grammar School & Community College
 Lutterworth Town Council
 Lutterworth Town Estates
 Lutterworth Town Study Group
 Lutterworth Volunteer Centre
 South Leicestershire Council for Voluntary Services

6. **Population of Town**

8061 Mid Year Estimate 1999

7. **Description of Town**

7.1 Lutterworth is located in South Leicestershire and is one of two traditional market towns in Harborough District. The town is surrounded by a network of villages and hamlets and is a centre for a network of retail, financial, administrative, educational and leisure activities for its surrounding agricultural hinterland.

7.2 The retail and business core of the town is based on High Street and Church Street in the designated Conservation Area. In the late 1990s two retail stores were developed to the immediate north of the traditional town centre (De Bradelei Mill and Safeway). Whilst these premises have consolidated the retail role of the town, they have made the south end of the High Street marginal in retail terms, and the units themselves are poorly linked to the traditional town centre.

7.3 The town has traditionally provided a diverse range of employment opportunities. Traditional engineering and manufacturing companies have in recent years been augmented by the ongoing development of Magna Park, a major warehouse/distribution centre.

8. **Brief Summary Of Major Issues Already Identified**

- Conservation -led regeneration
- Reduction in impact of through traffic in town centre
- Provision of One Stop Shop for Volunteer Centre & Citizen's Advice Bureau.

- Lack of farmers market
- No IT facilities in non-educational facilities
- No weekly cinema in a community hall
- Lack of town centre management
- No central Tourist information centre
- Lack of single person accommodation

9. **Summary of previously funded projects in Lutterworth**

Lutterworth Heritage & Economic Regeneration Scheme (2000/01-2002/3). Jointly funded by English Heritage, Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council.

Lutterworth Heritage Market Town - SRB6 Bridging Communities (Leicestershire County Council/Welland Partnership).

10. **Any Other Comments**

- 10.1 Lutterworth appears well placed as a market town at a superficial level. It has not, however, enjoyed the commercial and financial benefits that other market towns have in recent years. The reasons for this lack of progress are detailed below.
- 10.2 Lutterworth's hinterland has been significantly affected by the development of major retail facilities in Leicester, Fosse Park/Leicester, Rugby and Coventry. Lutterworth's position adjacent to the M1 and M6 has meant that these competing centres are more accessible than their distances from the town would suggest. The traditional retail association of its hinterland to Lutterworth has been eroded in a major way.
- 10.3 Lutterworth town centre is affected by high levels of through traffic on the A426. The impact of traffic noise, pollution and inconvenience detracts from the retail attraction of the town centre, and divides the shopping core into two distinct parts.
- 10.4 At the same time Lutterworth has a vibrant community spirit and this is reflected in the range and diversity of the community and voluntary groups involved in the submission. This will be a major factor in terms of the long-term sustainability of any projects which would stem from a successful submission under the Initiative.