

# **WELLS CITY COUNCIL**

## **WELLS CITY COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE**

### **City of Culture 2021**

Response to the announcement of the UK City of Culture 2021 short list, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Wells City Council applauds the efforts of the Wells City of Culture Bid Team and congratulates them on their commitment and enthusiasm.

All the work done by the Team has focused attention on the City of Wells along with the wider district, and on the many cultural features and events already existing and developing in and around the area.

The City Council is aware that the Bid Team intends to continue progressing many of the proposals; the City Council and the people of Wells look forward to the Bid Team's consultations with local residents on these innovative schemes.

The City Council will hold a meeting to consider what role it can take, looking to the principle authorities for Mendip and Somerset to partner in the primary leadership role with the Bid Team. A project on this scale is beyond the scope of a single town (parish) council, such as Wells City Council.

The City Council would recommend that the relevant planning authorities' Conservation Officers be asked to carry out an impact assessment on the emerging project. If it is to go forward on a large scale it would be important to ensure that safeguards were in place, protecting our tiny medieval city centre from potential damage due

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to the proposed imposition of massive footfall, transport and other infrastructure, both temporary and permanent. There are also historic sites and rural features in the hinterland to be considered.

The Bid Team has been made aware that the local authorities have no funds allocated to support this project. The Bid contains many impressive creative ideas and we look forward to seeing more detail on the parallel Sponsorship Plan.

Wells City Council recognises the achievements of the Bid Team and looks forward to seeing how the next steps can unfold, under the guidance of the principle authorities.

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**ENDS**

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