

REPORT TO TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

GINNEL LIGHTING SCHEME

Report Reference T-24-03
Meeting Date 17th June 2024
Agenda Item 9
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

The committee has previously raised the idea of improved lighting, maintenance and naming of town centre ginnels¹ to enhance their charm, safety and usage.

This report aims to stimulate discussion on how the committee wishes to see this progress. The committee has some budget available due to the Christmas lighting contract being delivered below budget, which would enable the committee to consider implementing lighting of ginnels in the current financial year.

2.0 GINNEL LIGHTING

2.1 WHICH GINNELS

There are four narrow pedestrian ginnels from King Street which are currently unilluminated and could be suitable for lighting:

- 50-54 King Street (between D13 and Cross Keys) leading to Princess Street
- 54-60 King Street (Tower Gate, between Cross Keys and 60 King Street) leading to Church View
- 66-68 King Street (between Boots and Terrance Paul) leading to Silk Mill Street
- 80-82 King Street (between Bare Necessities and former NatWest building) leading to Slaters Yard

The Tower Gate and Silk Mill Street ginnels are adopted highways, the other two are public rights of way.

Direction is sought from the committee as to which ginnels it would like to see lit and if there is a priority order.

2.2 WHAT LIGHTING

There are three main options for illuminating the ginnels: standard wall mounted lights, heritage style (e.g. lantern) wall mounted lights and festoon lighting across paths.

There will be practical considerations for different lighting styles, for example it will be necessary to secure permission from building owners to install lighting and festoon lighting would require sufficient

¹ passage, alley, snicket, twitchel, twitten, cut etc

height along the length of the installation. Festoon lighting would also require periodic inspection to ensure it does not detach from fixings e.g. in heavy wind.

Direction is sought from the committee as to how it would wish to see ginnels lit, this may differ by ginnel.

3.0 GINNEL NAMING / SIGNAGE

Presently, only one ginnel is specifically named: Tower Gate (adjacent to the Gaskell Memorial Tower) and is signed “Tower Gate to Church View & Princess Street”.

The path between D13 and Cross Keys does not lead to a named yard/road. The Silk Mill Street ginnel extends directly from the road, the 80-82 King Street ginnel extends from Slaters Yard. The Silk Mill Street ginnel is signed (“Silk Mill St to Market”).

Direction is sought from the committee as to whether it would wish to see ginnels named (including which ones) and how it would wish to progress this. For example, it could run a public competition to submit names (with a winner chosen by the committee) with / without guidance on preferred themes / connections.

Direction is further sought as to whether ginnels should be signed and how, e.g. with names (where applicable) and/or directional (e.g. “to Princess Street”).

4.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee is requested to provide the following direction to enable options to be explored and costed proposals brought to this/ the relevant committee:

- Which ginnels should be lit
- What styles of lighting is preferred
- Whether ginnels should be named and if so which ones / how
- Whether ginnels require signage