

REPORT TO TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

GINNELS IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

Report Reference T-25-27
Meeting Date 13th April 2026
Agenda Item 7
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

The committee previously provided direction to the Ginnel Improvements WG in developing an action plan for the improvement of town centre ginnels. The Committee Chair and Town Clerk have now developed a prioritised list of actions for implementation.

2.0 GINNEL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

2.1 OVERVIEW

Ref	Ginnel	Action	Priority
1	Cross Keys	Determine name for ginnel	HIGH
2	Cross Keys	Lobby Lost and Found to improve amenity (bins)	HIGH
3	Cross Keys	Replace concrete streetlight with heritage style	LOW
4	Cross Keys	Install signs both ends	LOW
5	Cross Keys	Lighting alongside Cross Keys	HIGH
6	Tower Gate	More Regular Cleaning	HIGH
7	Tower Gate	Repaint Handrails	MEDIUM
8	Tower Gate	Pigeon Proofing	LOW
9	Tower Gate	Sign from princess Street	LOW
10	Tower Gate	Install Lighting	HIGH
11	Silk Mill Street	Resurface pedestrian section	MEDIUM
12	Silk Mill Street	Install signage at both ends	LOW
13	Silk Mill Street	Lighting in ginnel (King St end)	HIGH
14	Malt Street	Install lighting at King St End	HIGH
15	Slaters Yard	Sconce lighting in ginnel	HIGH
16	Slaters Yard	Improved Maintenance	HIGH
17	Slaters Yard	Signage at both ends	LOW
18	Heritage Way	Install planter	COMPLETE

2.2 CROSS KEYS GINNEL NAME

The proposal is to undertake a public vote (promoted via social media and the Knutsford Guardian) to propose a name for the path adjacent to the Cross Keys to Princess Street. The two names which will be put forward will be

- a. Waterhouse Way (linking to architect of Old Town Hall where the path ends)

- b. St Peter's Gate (linking to the Cross Keys which was the symbol of St Peter, keeper of the keys to the gates of heaven)

This will be undertaken in May.

2.3 LIGHTING

The Town Centre Manager is liaising with property owners for the lighting projects. Permission has been obtained for festoon lighting at the top of Malt Street, installation of Silk Mill Street lighting (on the Boots side) and lighting in the enclosed section of Slaters Yard.

Investigations are ongoing to establish the cost of installing and maintaining the lighting.

2.4 MAINTENANCE

General maintenance activity will be scheduled with the Town Rangers. The pigeon proofing of the Tower Gate ginnel will be left to the future owners of 60 King Street.

The resurfacing of the section of Silk Mill Street will be explored with Cheshire East Ward Members.

2.5 SIGNAGE

The detail of proposed signage is to be developed. It is intended signs will be 'quirky' and add to the character of the town centre, for example it might be a hand painted artistic sign rather than a standard highway sign. Signage will indicate where the path leads to and the accessibility of the path (no. steps etc).

Signage will be looked at in detail once the lighting projects are complete.

2.6 STREETLIGHTING REPLACEMENT

The aim to replace the concrete streetlight with a heritage style light will be explored once other projects are completed, but it is likely to be outside the existing allocated budget.

3.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should:

- a) Approve the outlined ginnels improvements plan
- b) Authorise officers to implement the plan in line with the previously agreed budget (£7,500) and in consultation with the committee chair