

RSN Seminar



‘Market Towns’

Welcome to Harborough

Lee Byrne

Business Support Manager

Background to Town Centre

- Identified within 5 national surveys in the last year as a great place to live
- No Town Council, No BID, No Town partnership. There is a local chamber of commerce and a fantastic volunteering community
- Characterised by a great mix of vibrant and bustling independent retailers and national chains



HDC role in its Town Centres

- We exist as a landlord, employer and major contributor to the Town Centre.
- Have a dedicated Town Centre co-ordinator officer who runs events such as Harborough by the Sea and the Xmas light switch on.
- Support other events through sponsorship and in kind contributions; arts fresco, business breakfasts, SPARK and social media awards



Assessing worth of our Town Centres

- Identified as being of strategic importance to the LLEP
- Agreement at a county level to begin benchmarking exercise as to the value of Leicestershire's market towns to the wider economy.
- Brief being developed and study due to be funded by LLEP and Local authorities



Wider work within the rural communities

- Successful LEADER funding BID
 - £1.5m over the lifetime of the programme aimed to encourage rural economic growth
- Support wider rural focussed projects such as sustainable Harborough
 - Food maps
 - Business energy club
- Aim to create rural business hub out of the Innovation centre with support of partners.
- Broadband – committed over £750,000 to providing superfast broadband to our rural areas

