



TOWN CENTRE

Slough Labour Party's manifesto at the 2018 Local Elections included three town centre pledges to be achieved over the next 12 months. We promised to improve the immediate offer around the High Street, carry out a town survey, and to prepare the way for the long term regeneration of the town centre.

This summer two walkabouts have been carried out which identified a series of 'quick wins', residents will have noticed the freshly painted lampposts, the flower baskets and improved street scene, new lamppost banners and additional bins. We have asked our Licensing Committee to look at policy that will see street markets return to Slough, and plans for a Slough privilege card for our residents to use with retail partners are well underway.

We are working to conclude our negotiations to bring a pop-up restaurant offer to Slough, which will have an immediate impact on our early evening and night time economy – with a range of modern street food in various start-up restaurants.

Regeneration wise Cllr Swindlehurst has held several meetings with the new owners of Queensmere/Observatory about their emerging plans. They have now completed the purchase of the former Marks and Spencer's site to consolidate their future development, and we are all keen to see their plans for the full redevelopment of the northern side of the High Street when they set these out later in the autumn.

As regards to the southern side of the High Street, Cllr Swindlehurst has just held two constructive meetings with the new owners of the former River Island and BHS sites as we work to assist these developments in progressing.

We have our plans for the larger former TVU site which will include retail, restaurants, and new homes – which are vital to any modern town centre as they provide the footfall required to sustain a retail offer. We are also considering locating the Slough Regeneration Campus in the heart of the town centre as part of our regeneration proposals.

Just up from the TVU site we have recently completed the purchase of the former Adelphi cinema building which will help us develop future plans to provide a large auditorium and arts space that residents so desperately want.

There is a lot to be excited about, and a lot of hard work has been going on for some time behind the scenes to get to where we are today, but that hard work is now starting to bare fruit.

We are on the cusp of a great deal of positive change for Slough – its just a shame the Conservatives are interested in cheap headlines rather than doing the research required to understand the real change we are creating – probably why electors in this town time and time again fail to consider them as a serious prospect!