

ROSS-ON-WYE TOWN COUNCIL

Invitation to Tender

Past Meets Present in a Historic Market Town

Interpretation Boards at the Market House, Ross-on-Wye



About Ross-on-Wye Town Council

Ross-on-Wye Town Council is a parish council serving the people of Ross-on-Wye and is passionate about ensuring the town is a vibrant place for residents, businesses and visitors.

Working with others, we will maintain and improve quality of life in our historic market town by:

Delivering services fairly and efficiently

Listening to and supporting residents and businesses

Protecting and enhancing our environment

Encouraging strong communities and representing their interests

Promoting tourism and cultural activities to make Ross-on-Wye the best place to live in Herefordshire.

Ross-on-Wye Town Council was established in 1974 following the introduction of the Local Government Act 1972. It underwent further changes in 2015 after a boundary review resulted in its amalgamation with Ross Rural Parish Council. It is comprised of eighteen councillors representing the town's three wards: North, East and West. The councillors have been elected by the residents to represent their interests on matters which affect the town. To achieve this, councillors strive to improve services and amenities for both the residents and visitors. Town Councillors are supported by officers based at the Town Hall, Cantilupe Road, Ross-on-Wye.

Project Details

The historic Market House in Ross-on-Wye is undergoing a programme of repair and restoration works and part of this includes developing legacy projects. We have been awarded funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Wolfson Foundation and The Pilgrim Trust, with the remainder of the project costs being funded by Ross-on-Wye Town Council.

The Market House is a cherished iconic landmark, deeply connected to how local people view and regard Ross-on-Wye. As the town's focal point, it is widely used as a meeting point and is closely associated with many annual events and celebrations that bring our community together, from pancake races to the switching on of Christmas lights. For the one secondary and three primary schools in Ross, its value lies in its tangible connection to the past: exploring this Scheduled Ancient Monument creates a memorable learning experience. It has featured in many school projects from historical studies to art exhibitions. Teachers who have used the Market House to support their lessons confirm its educational value and feel strongly about its upkeep.

To demonstrate the depth of feeling within our community we ran a "what three words" exercise to reveal people's strongest associations with the Market House. The top recurring words confirmed that people regard the building as part of the town's heritage and history; view it as the heart of the town, an important landmark and local feature; and recognise its distinct aesthetic value. Conversely a number of responses included "restoration/needs saving/needs work" revealing interest in, and concern with the need to secure, the future of this much-loved building. Similarly, our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) confirms concerns about the decline of the Conservation Area and the Market House being at risk. Our project reflects this and will support a number of the Plan's key objectives.

In addition to this the project aims to achieve several other objectives:

- Heritage will be in a better condition
- Heritage will be identified and better explained
- People will have learned about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions
- The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit
- The local economy will be boosted

As a result of the project, the Market House will remain open to the public, free of charge, between the hours of 10am and 4pm, 7 days a week throughout the year, providing access for visitors wishing to explore and learn more about the building and its heritage. During these opening hours visitors will be able to access the information panels explaining the history of the building and the town, the hedgehog hub, and to engage with the work of local artists and craftspeople.

Interpretation Boards

Ross-on-Wye Town Council is inviting proposals from suitably qualified individuals or organisations to undertake the design and manufacture of interior and exterior interpretation boards for The Market House, Ross-on-Wye. All boards will need to include acknowledgement of the funders involved.

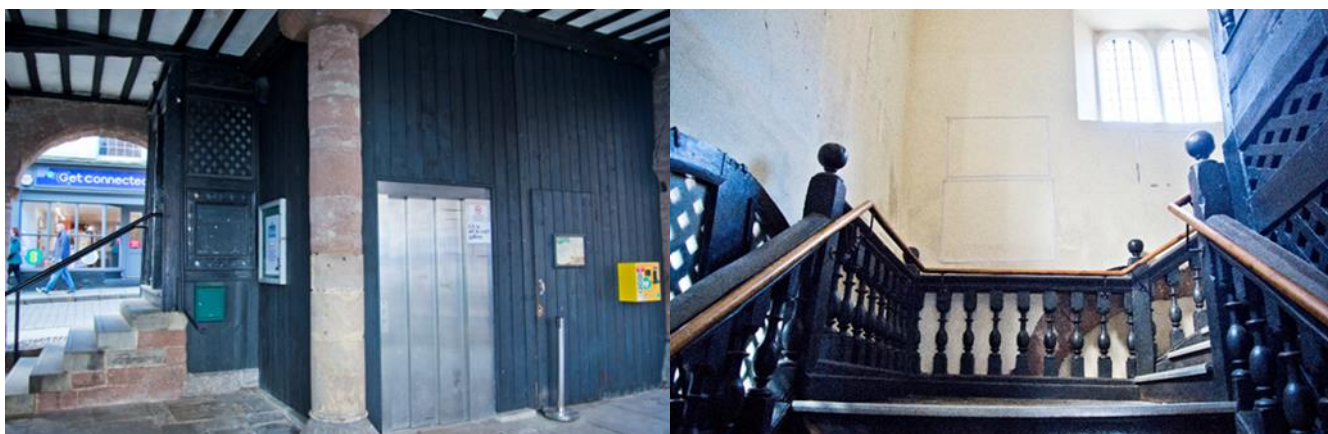
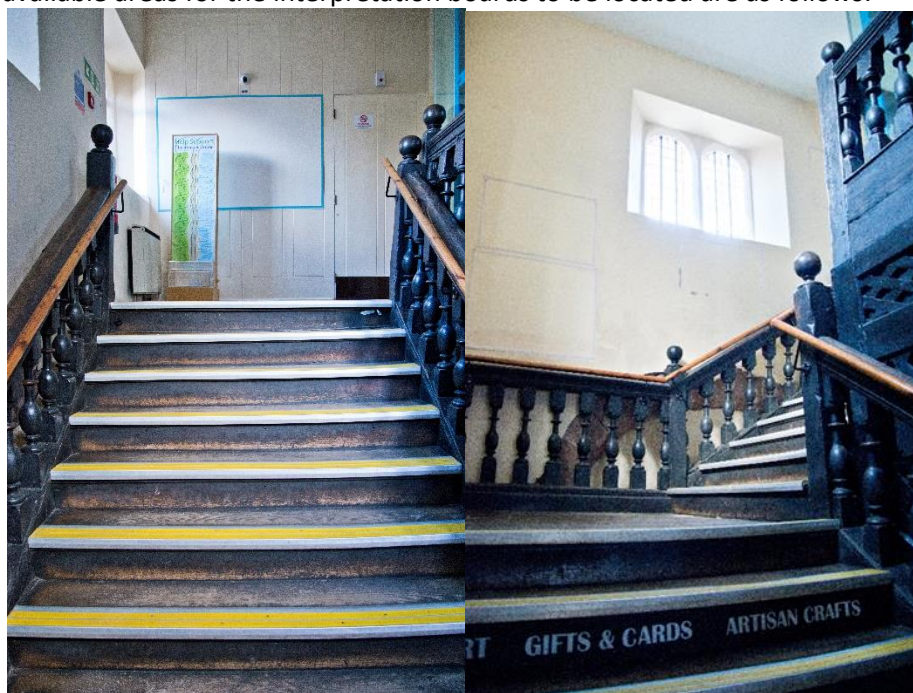
The aim of the Interpretation Boards is to enable the heritage of the building and the Town to be identified and explained and these will be expected to include four discovery routes which connect the past with life in Ross today:

1. Market pathway, centred on the Market House, telling the story of Ross as a market town from its origins in the 12th century to market trading today
2. Tourism pathway, telling the story of Ross as the birthplace of British tourism from the first organised tour in the 18th century to the present day
3. Hedgehog pathway, telling the story of the town's historic emblem and connecting to the plight of the hedgehog in the 21st century
4. Civil War / Monarchy pathway, telling the story of this Royalist stronghold during the Civil War

We are open to creative and innovative ways of achieving this and welcome your suggestions. Suggested content for the interpretation boards will be provided.

We would like you to specify the methodology you plan to use to meet the aims and objectives of the work. The Town Council would favour materials that are local/ethically sourced/recycled but that are durable and fade resistant. An explanation of why the proposed material have been chosen should be provided.

Photos and sizes of available areas for the interpretation boards to be located are as follows:



Location	Height	Length	Quantity
External (post box)	1400mm	2400mm	1
External (right of main door)	2000mm	1600mm	1
Internal (stairwell)	2000mm	1200mm	2
Internal (stairwell)	800mm	1200mm	2
Lift (glass panel)	1800mm	1800mm	1
Internal (landing)	1200mm	2000mm	1

Project Budget

Circa £20,000 net of VAT

The timeline for the project is:

Successful tenderer notified by 12th July 2024

Interpretation boards ready for installation by 30th September 2024

Installation by 18th October 2024

Please submit a detailed project proposal, including details of the skills, experience, expertise and qualifications you and/or your team would bring to the project, a breakdown of costs, as well as two examples of similar projects and two contactable references for projects you have delivered. Please also provide a copy of your insurance. You may be invited to present your proposal to the Town Council.

Deadline for submission of tenders is 5pm on the 30th June 2024. Project proposals should be submitted for the attention of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Cantilupe Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 7AN, marked Private and Confidential.



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

**Pilgrim
Trust**

The Wolfson*
Foundation