

RETAIN REFURBISH REUSE

INFORMATION SHEET 8

How could the car parks be refurbished?

East Devon District Council owns the car parks in Ham Lane, Mill Street and Russell Street. They would have to agree to any changes or even pass ownership to the Town Council so they could make changes. Car parks can be improved by planting trees and shrubs as well as using different walls or fences or even surfaces. The layout of the Ham Lane car parks could be improved, perhaps by altering the entrance and walls. Paying for this kind of work is the challenge of course, no Council has the budget to do this. It may be possible to provide funding to them from public donations, grants or income from activities around the Drill Hall, but this would need to be explored. Sidmouth Arboretum have made suggestions on how to improve planting in the car parks but planting trees in the existing surface is apparently very expensive.



What about improving other areas?

The Sidmouth In Bloom team have already worked hard to improve the planting around the concrete area at the old SWW pumping station at the back of the Ham. Expanding on this kind of scheme would make a real difference to the whole area.

The swimming pool is owned by East Devon District Council but leased to LED Leisure Management Ltd (previously Leisure East Devon). LED Leisure Management Ltd is a charitable registered society under the Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 (Registered No: IP30029R) and was established on 1st January 2006. The pool is not included in any current plans and it is an important facility for both residents and visitors. The car park around the building could be improved and some of the spaces are included in the development site at Port Royal and may be built on. Although the exterior of the building could benefit from updating, it seems very unlikely that LED would be able to fund such cosmetic work.

There are many different ideas about how to improve Port Royal and all areas of the eastern town. The biggest stumbling block is money, followed by the willingness of landowners and other parties to co-operate and work with the community to make things happen. Money can be found: from grants, donations and reusing the Drill Hall as a venue, for example. But what about the will?