

Taken from the Themes discussion paper (SEP, Sept 2023)

The Growth Framework was published in 2021 and featured details on capacity, aspiration, areas for priority and measures that would help Sedbergh to meet its vision as a prosperous and sustainable market town. The Framework is due to be updated together with actions needed to help deliver change. Below are updates and key points covering a variety of priority areas.

This note provides a brief overview of the current situation and will help SEP to formulate ideas/ targets/ milestones for the months ahead.

Vibrant Main Street

Key issues:

Main Street is Sedbergh's shop window, it needs to be vibrant, open, full and welcoming both to regular shoppers and to visitors. Current occupiers all run different opening hours, lack of evening economy options including takeaways, vacancy rates are increasing and parking areas to support the Main Street are limited especially on event days. Unit sizes in Main Street are small and long-term empty properties remain.

Latest:

The owners of shop units at Browns and Udales are willing to host pop-up shops in the run up to Christmas, up to 12 weeks. Artisan Markets have helped footfall to the Main Street last few months. Shop Local campaign has been running but need additional footfall from visitors (plus coach parties).

Al Fornos has been sold as a potential Wine Bar/ Coffee Bar. No.6 Finkle Street is being refurbished for let as a beauty business. Gun Dog café opening more days and extending menu. Haddock Paddock remains for sale. Udales has had interest but asking price too high.

The Dalesman won Pub of the Year in the Cumbria Tourism Awards. The Information Centre is an excellent resource for signposting visitors. Sedbergh Parish Council exploring parking options for residents to alleviate pressures on main car parks. Electric charging points now available in Sedbergh.

Lead person:

John Barraclough, local business