



**TONBRIDGE & MALLING
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Nicolas Heslop

Leader of The Council

**Cabinet Member for
Economic Regeneration**

**Borough Councillor
for Cage Green Ward**

Robert Beswarick
Snodland Chamber of Commerce
c/o Hicks Estate Agents
30 High Street
Snodland
Kent ME6 5DF

11 July 2016

Dear Mr Beswarick,

HIGH STREET INNOVATION FUND – SNODLAND

At a meeting of the Borough Council's Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 17 July 2013, members resolved to engage five trading groups with the aim of supporting their local centres. All five were in the north of the Borough. They were Borough Green Chamber of Commerce, Snodland Chamber of Commerce, Martin Square Traders Association, West Malling Chamber of Commerce/Town Malling Day Ltd and Wrotham Traders.

Each centre was offered a grant of £7,500 and local traders were encouraged to put forward their project proposals for how this funding could best be spent. The vast majority of these initiatives and subsequent local centres initiatives across the borough have now been delivered.

Having not received an update from the Snodland Chamber of Commerce for some time, information was provided in December last year which indicated that progress was being made, and as a result of this, funding was sent to Snodland Town Council to cover payments for the work. A further request for information in May 2016 did result in a progress update which indicated that local contractors were being brought into the project in order to speed up delivery. However, since then, there has been no further information provided.

I am extremely concerned that the borough council has made this funding available for the benefit of traders in Snodland and to date there has been no delivery. I am very keen to understand why the project has not been delivered to date, and would welcome an update explaining when the project will be completed.

If this reassurance cannot be provided, then the borough council will have to consider withdrawing funding for this project.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Karen Sowten, Chief Executive of Snodland Town Council.

Yours sincerely,

NICOLAS HESLOP