

Swadlincote Town Centre Masterplan: Public Realm Improvements

Scope of Masterplan

1. The approved Swadlincote Town Centre Masterplan contains a £5.8m (priced in 2006) set of environmental improvements mostly in the public realm covering all of Swadlincote town centre. The proposals were split into areas suitable for phased implementation. Proposals for improving Ernest Hall Way and Bank Passage have been added to take account of recent development/development proposals.
2. The masterplan was prepared following consultation with key stakeholder groups including members and a public exhibition in March 2006. It is proposed that further consultation be carried out with key stakeholders and through a small exhibition early in 2009 before the second phase of the works starts.

Masterplan Phase 1

3. The first phase of implementation focused on improvements to the eastern approach to the town, the scale of the works reflecting the level of external funding that was available at that time. The £361,000 package of improvements, completed in March 2008, comprised the resurfacing and naming of three pedestrian routes (known locally as jitties) between the East End car park and High Street, a new traditionally detailed boundary retaining wall and tree planting along Civic Way and the resurfacing of Church Street incorporating granite kerbs and channel blocks.

Masterplan Phase 2

4. Phase 2 is more ambitious in scope capitalising on the higher level of external funding potentially available currently. Three applications have been made to DDEP. Decisions on the applications are expected in January 2009.
5. Tackling The Delph and West Street early will help to stamp a high quality identity on two important spaces and signal very clearly that the regeneration process is firmly under way. Tackling Ernest Hall Way and Bank Passage will improve accessibility to the Morrisons site and the future retail site to the south.
6. The works will include:
 - Improving the quality of the public realm using natural materials in a way that capitalises on Swadlincote's heritage assets.
 - De-cluttering the streets, achieving better segregation between pedestrians and vehicles and facilitating the enforcement of parking and other traffic restrictions.
 - Improving access for all users.

- Creating more attractive and accessible links between the town centre and Ernest Hall Way and the south side of the former Hepworths site via Bank Passage.
- Giving The Delph a better sense of place and better definition whilst screening buildings of low architectural quality.
- Creating a better setting for the entrance to the Town Hall whilst accommodating the continuation of the on street market and other events.
- Resurfacing The Delph, West Street, Bank Passage and Ernest Hall Way using blue brick pavers/stone paving with a skid resistance approved by the County Highway Authority. The construction to be suitable for pedestrian and or vehicular use as appropriate.
- Replacing/re-siting highway signage, rationalising and wall mounting signs so as to reduce clutter.
- Providing high quality street furniture, generally low key in design but incorporating purpose designed seating in The Delph.
- Improving street lighting utilising wall mounted fittings wherever possible and an architectural scheme of lighting for The Delph incorporating units to creatively light seating and planting.
- Carrying out any necessary improvements to surface water drainage.
- Providing underground ducting to accommodate future CCTV provision

The full extent of the works will be dependent on costs but the area under consideration shown on the map below.

