

Design Workshop 1 - Streetscape and Infrastructure - Thursday 14 August 2014

The purpose of this Design Workshop was to review and develop the streetscape and infrastructure design elements of the emerging Masterplan. Participants engaged with the Project Architect and Civil Engineering Consultants to define design criteria for roads, pavements, boundaries, cycle ways, traffic calming, and parking.

Attendees:

Project Team

Eleni Stathi - Lead Designer
Gelina Menville - Regeneration Manager
Neal Murphy - Civil Engineer

Residents

Albert Drive (2)
Heron Walk (1)
Woodlands House (1)

Stakeholders

Councillor Raja - Ward Councillor

Apologies

Blackmore Crescent (1)

Discussion and Actions

1.0 Cycling

- Preference for segregated cycle ways where this can be accommodated
- Need to ensure that speed calming measures for the cyclists are considered
- Suggestion that the Project Team looks at the way cyclists are accommodated in towns such as Oxford and Milton Keynes
- If Sheerwater becomes more accessible for the cyclists it will also become more attractive to commuters

Actions for the Project Team

- Propose a clear street hierarchy with different options for vehicular, pedestrian and cycle integration
- Look at precedents of towns where cycle movement is actively encouraged
- Ensure that adequate cycle storage is provided in the new buildings

2.0 Traffic Calming

- The participants expressed their concerns regarding the control of speeding vehicles
- The participants queried the techniques the Masterplan will use to deter speeding
- The participants were interested to find out how highway design can introduce passive forms of traffic calming

Actions for the Project Team

- Explore different traffic calming measures through the design of the streets, parking arrangement and variety in building lines
- This could be one of the design aspects to be included in the Master plan design guide

3.0 Transport

- A key concern for participants is the poor provision of public transport
- Participants welcome the introduction of a bus route through the local centre. It was perceived that it would benefit the elderly and would give them more opportunities to access other areas of Woking and reduce the feeling of isolation

Actions for the Project Team

- Commence discussions with bus service providers as soon as possible
- Identify the preferred bus route through the local centre

4.0 Flooding / Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

- The participants were in favour of the introduction of a 'swale' to recreate the Rive Ditch. There are reservations that traditional forms of drainage might not be suitable for Sheerwater due to the high water table
- Examples of swales were shown to participants
- Locations where bio swales could be introduced in the Masterplan were identified
- Participants were concerned with the possible risk of flooding
- The participants would like to understand the extent of the flood risk and the mitigation strategy that will be adopted to ensure this can be effectively managed within the Masterplan proposals

Action for the Project Team

- Arrange an additional Design Workshop to discuss flood risk, mitigation strategy and the protection of the canal embankment

5.0 Parking

- The participants identified parking provision as a major concern that will need to be addressed by the regeneration proposals
- The participants understood the advantages and disadvantages of the different parking arrangements that were presented to them

- Preference would be for parking spaces that are allocated to individual properties
- Small and secure parking courts would also be acceptable
- If parking courts are provided, the preference was that the street design should deter residents from parking on the streets.
- Allocated spaces should be provided within the parking courts
- Parking courts could also help de-clutter the front gardens from bins and bike storage

Actions for the Project Team

- Investigate different types of parking in the capacity studies
- Parking solutions could be one of the design aspects that could differentiate between different character areas in the Masterplan.

6.0 Boundary Treatments

- The participants expressed some concerns regarding the future maintenance regime for the front gardens and soft landscaped areas
- Front gardens should be easy to maintain to avoid untidiness and clutter

Actions for the Project Team

- Front gardens to be carefully designed so that clutter is minimised
- Boundary treatments could be one of the design aspects that could differentiate between different character areas in the Masterplan.

7.0 Sustainability

- Councillor Raja requested that the development meets very high sustainability standards.