

Salisbury Market Place responses from the Survey, Community Working Group and other responses following the withdrawal of the Vision planning application. 17/11/2011 Richard Clewer

These responses are not my views, they are the responses from the various forms of consultation on the issues which have been raised pertaining to the Market Place. The answers to the questions raised here form the basis for a 'design brief' along with any other comments the Area Board want to add. The working group met on three occasions in October and November.

Once an actual design has been put together then it will come back to the Salisbury Area Board for public review and possible approval.

I am breaking the responses down into a number of key questions that have been identified. I am including the broad answers from the Survey along with the findings of the community working group and the extraordinary Area Board meeting on the Market Place. They are addressed them in the order the Working Group considered them. To define the terms used the Survey means the results of the online and paper Survey put out by the Area Board with 1,545 responses. The Working Group is the community working group which I have chaired. The Area Board refers to the opinions of the Area Board Audience of the 10<sup>th</sup> of October.

#### 1) General

The Survey shows that a majority of people think the market place needs refurbishing. The Working Group felt the same by a clear majority.

#### 2) One or two Squares.

The Survey did not cover this issue. The Working Group and the Area Board meeting both clearly showed a majority in favour of having a distinction between the two Squares.

It has been suggested that the Market Place should be a more functional place, the Guildhall a more 'sacred' one.

#### 3) The War Memorial

The Survey showed a majority in favour of not moving the War Memorial as did the Area Board. The Working Group initially supported the retention of the War Memorial in it's current location. A further meeting of the group discussed it again and was split on the issue.

The City Council have raised issues regarding how the Memorial Service is run where many people only have a view of the back of the War Memorial. This has been put forward by the City Council as a reason for moving the Memorial.

I raised and supported the issue of adding the names of Salisbury war dead not currently on the Memorial to the War Memorial (the only issue I have pushed myself so far) and this was supported by the working group. A list of names that could be added have been passed to the Area Board.

#### 4) Toilets

The Survey, Working Group and Area Board all want toilets in the Market Place.

The working group and area board supported having disabled toilets in the market square. There was no consensus about where they should be put, it was suggested that the designers/architects come up with a solution as close to the current toilets as possible.

The Working Group did not support the Vision proposal for a toilet and bin block on the avenue. Also the Cheese Market was rejected as a location.

#### 5) Surface

The Survey, Working Group and Area Board all agreed that the Market Place should be re-surfaced. Any surface needs to be durable and suitable for disabled people.

- The Working Group suggested that:
- A large stock pile of the material used for resurfacing be retained
- The surface must be laid properly.
- A proper budget for maintenance and repair must be available.
- The surface must be durable and able to deal with traffic from the Market and Fair.
- That a test panel of the Granite sets proposed by the Vision design be brought to the Market Square for people to test and see the suitability of including the suitability for disabled people. This would probably have a cost implication but would allow the material to get a test.

The Working Group felt that a distinction between the two Squares should be retained in the surfaces. It also felt the design should be plain, not patterned.

#### 6) Public space/furniture

The working group felt that more benches were needed in the Market Place and that they should fit in with street scene palette from the Vision Board.

#### 7) The Diagonal path/right of way

The Working Group felt the diagonal path should be retained in some way, brass studs were suggested to delineate it.

#### 8) Parking

The Survey and Area Board both supported removing cars from the Market and Guildhall Square. The Area Board supported their removal at night as well

Wiltshire officers looked at where disabled parking could be added in the vicinity of the market place. We can put 9 on-street places as proposed by the Vision and a further 10 places on New Canal Street by moving the

motorbike parking and coach parking (but not minibus parking). It may be possible to achieve more but this level is definitely achievable.

The Working Group supported removing car parking from both squares day and night. Business representatives expressed concern about night time parking being removed.

#### 9) Trees

The Survey and Area Board are in favour of keeping all trees and that any that were diseased and considered in need of removal be replaced with semi mature trees of the same species.

The Working Group agreed that all the trees should be retained with the exception of the four big ones along Oatmeal Row. The Working Group could not reach a clear consensus about the four large trees and thinks the Area Board needs to decide. Concern was expressed about the impact of the four large trees on buildings, the surface and whether they could be pollarded without problems. Council Officers feel that it would be possible to pollard them.

The Working Group felt that the trees should be high pollarded and that a plan be put in place for regular maintenance and pollarding moving forward. They felt that the pollarding should be carried out on trees where it is suitable as soon as possible. Council Officers also recommended high pollarding, (the removal of 2 to 4 meters from the circumference of the tree including some major branches) as the best form of pollarding where it is necessary. Other options were Crowning (the removal of 1 meter of growth from the canopy of the tree) which was not seen as enough and low pollarding (cutting trees back to the trunk and short stems) which was seen as excessive

The Working Group felt that the cabling and lighting currently on trees should be removed.

#### 10) Lighting

The Working Group felt that there should be lighting in the Square, they were broadly in favour of the lighting proposal in the Vision's proposals for the Market Place. This has not been discussed in other forums. Some other groups have commented that the Vision's lighting proposals, particularly the tall lighting, were excessive.

The group felt that the electricity supply needed modernising along the lines suggested by the Vision.

#### 11) Uses of the Market Place

The Working Group discussed other uses of the Market Place.

It was felt that there should not be any permanent raised structures such as stages on the square but that the square should be flexible and allow for varied use. An occasional raised area for events was seen as a good idea.

Other suggestions included skating, a big screen for events, holiday entertainment, buskers, music, brass bands, chamber groups, choirs, rock bands, a moveable art wall. New signage, a map of the city, perhaps outlining walks. Other markets alongside the Tuesday and Saturday ones, possibly crafts, in the Guildhall Square. Wifi available in the market place.

## 12) Cost

The Working Group rejected a suggestion the cost of the Market Place development be limited to £1,000,000

All the answers to the survey questions are included below for your information. While some of the specific numbers have changed the overall views have not since last time. At the point of this data being put together there were 1,545 responses the survey is now finished.

1 The Market Square needs refurbishing to allow people to enjoy it and make more use of it.

Strongly Agree or Agree = 60%                      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 19%

2 There should be trees in the Market Square.

Strongly Agree or Agree = 84%                      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 3%

3 All the existing healthy trees in the Market Square should be retained.

Strongly Agree or Agree = 74%                      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 14%

4 Diseased trees in the Market Square should be replaced with semi mature trees of the same species.

Strongly Agree or Agree = 76%                      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 11%

5 I would be happy to see trees in the Market Square taken down providing they were replaced with semi mature trees.

Strongly Agree or Agree = 38%                      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 52%

6 Some of the existing trees are too big and block views in the Market Square.

Strongly Agree or Agree = 22%                      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 56%

7 Where tree roots are breaking up the surface of the Market Square action should be taken to repair it.

Strongly Agree or Agree = 80%                      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 10%

8 Benches and street furniture should be put around large trees to prevent roots causing a trip hazard.

Strongly Agree or Agree = 69%                      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 16%

9 Some of the trees should be removed to open up views in the Square.

- Strongly Agree or Agree = 26%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 61%
- 10 The majority of the trees should be removed.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 9%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 81%
- 11 The trees should be replaced with smaller specimens that are properly managed.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 22%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 65%
- 12 If trees in the Market Square are replaced, the species they are replaced with should be decided by the public.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 45%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 29%
- 13 The Market Square should be resurfaced.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 59%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 24%
- 14 The Market Square should become a pedestrian only zone.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 60%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 32%
- 15 There should be disabled parking spaces in the Market Square.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 54%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 32%
- 16 There should be more disabled parking spaces in the Market Square vicinity.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 51%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 25%
- 17 Disabled parking spaces could be placed along roads on and near the Market Square
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 65%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 19%
- 18 The War Memorial should be moved.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 30%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 57%
- 19 It makes a difference if English Heritage agree that it can be moved.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 25%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 54%
- 20 The Charter Market is a vital part of the Square's offerings.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 95%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 2%
- 21 The Charter Market could be better organised.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 53%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 20%
- 22 There should be public toilets in or near the market square.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 92%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 3%
- 23 I'd like to see the Market Square used for other purposes.
- Strongly Agree or Agree = 53%      Strongly Disagree or Disagree = 18%