

Maristow Street/Rotunda Improvements, Westbury

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Area Board on the status of the proposed improvements to Westbury Town Centre

Background

Mouchel were commissioned by Wiltshire Council to investigate the feasibility for pedestrian improvements to improve the link between the High Street and Market Place. Two particular locations were identified as playing an important part in providing this link – Maristow Street and the Rotunda area at the junction of High Street/Edward Street.

Traders within the study area were consulted prior to the preparation of any concept options for the two locations, with information gathered relating to the loading/delivery requirements of their businesses. The information gathered was taken in to consideration during the preparation of concept designs.

Three concept options were prepared for each area, ranging in the level of change they offered to the area. These concepts were consulted upon at a public exhibition in the town centre on the 3rd and 4th July 2009, where attendees at the exhibition were asked to complete a questionnaire to determine their preferred concept for each location.

Traders in High Street, Maristow Street and Edward Street were also visited after the event in order to get their views on the concepts put forward.

The preferred concepts for each location can be seen on the attached document and include the provision of a shared space along the length of Maristow Street and the removal of the Rotunda at the end of High Street.

As a result of the further discussions with traders and an assessment of the two locations, it was determined that the first phase of future works should concentrate upon the Rotunda area and opening up the link between High Street and the remainder of the town centre.

A steering group comprising of local stakeholders has been convened to provide input into the design process and to provide a link between the design team and the public.

The proposed improvements to Maristow Street shall be revisited as the second phase of the improvement works in a future financial year.

Main Considerations

- The removal of the Rotunda will open up the visual and physical link between High Street and the historic part of the town, encouraging greater pedestrian traffic into Edward Street, Maristow Street and Market Place.
- The removal will create a more flexible space which can be used for a variety of means. The design team welcome suggestion as to how the public would like to use this space.
- An artist impression of how the area may look upon removal of the Rotunda area shall be on display at the area board meeting.
- Concerns have been raised regarding the displacement of younger members of the public who currently use the rotunda as a meeting place. CAYPIG have been asked to provide comments on the proposals and the design team are keen to work with the group to incorporate some facilities into the final design or to find a suitable alternative location.

Environmental Impact of the Proposals

The removal of the Rotunda will result in the removal of the planting currently in situ, however an alternative planting/soft landscaping scheme shall be prepared.

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications at this stage. The design work associated with the project is funded from the Local Transport Plan. The construction costs will be identified in line with the preferred option.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

HR Implications

There are no HR implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Liaison with CAYPIG and the Wiltshire and Swindon Users Network is being undertaken to ensure that the final scheme takes into consideration the needs of young people and disabled users.

The design of the proposal thus far and all future design works shall take into consideration the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and guidance proffered by documents such as Inclusive Mobility (DfT) to ensure that the scheme provides an improvement to the current situation for vulnerable road users.

Recommendation

To support the work to identify a preferred option for improvements to Maristow Street/Rotunda area.

Report Author:
Helen Powdrill
Principal Highway Engineer
Department for Transport, Environment and Leisure
Wiltshire Council
01225 713505
Email: Helen.powdrill@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Outline of concept options and public opinion

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report