



Market Place Improvement Project – Revised Designs following consultation.

Following on from last year's consultation and contributions from interested parties, Salisbury Vision can now reveal the amendments to the scheme for the Market Place improvements.

Salisbury Vision received over 850 responses on the proposals and the Board has taken account of those comments.

By and large most respondents said that some improvements were needed and a number raised particular concerns.

The revised scheme addresses appropriately the views expressed and the Board's own concerns, in order to improve and maintain the historic heart of our city.

The revised proposals will make considerable cost savings whilst keeping to the principles of a high quality, people friendly space in keeping with Salisbury's historic character. The main changes are:

- The water feature has been excluded.
- The existing toilets will be retained and improved but a new accessible above ground toilet will still be provided for disabled users.
- The proposals need not affect the layout of the twice weekly market
- Substantial cost savings have been achieved against the previous scheme which will be used to facilitate other improvements in the City Centre

The proposals will now be progressing to a planning application stage over the coming months. The public will have a further opportunity to comment upon the Vision's plans as part of the planning process.

Sir Christopher Benson, Chairman of Salisbury Vision said:

"The Board has listened carefully to what people have said, and taken account of their views in instructing changes to the earlier scheme. We have done this now and will continue to do so on future projects. The Market Place Improvement Project provides an important first step towards safeguarding the economic future of this city whilst protecting its historic past".

Ends

Additional Information:

The principal responses to the consultation within the revised scheme are summarised below:

Issue	What you said	How we responded
Water Feature	A water feature was not needed and would be too costly to deliver.	Feature excluded
Toilets	The existing toilets are an important amenity, particularly on Market days, and should stay. It was acknowledged that they are not currently accessible to all people	The existing toilets will stay. The above ground structures will be replaced with a more attractive entrance using local stone. A single accessible toilet – clad in a similar material, will be provided nearby for disabled people.
Benches	The square needs more benches but granite is cold. Is it the best material?	Installing more benches than at present, and more added since Public Consultation, with wooden surfaces and backs for better comfort
Surface material	The current tarmac surface is unsightly.	We will be resurfacing the market with attractive, hard wearing, low maintenance granite setts surrounded by York stone.
Bin Store	The existing bins are unsightly, but do we need such a large structure to house them?	A smaller bin store will be built – using high quality local stone.
Market Pitches	Concerns were expressed about the ability of the twice weekly market to return to its existing layout.	The space being created by the revised proposals can not only accommodate the market but can also permit further expansion of the market on these days. It will be a matter for the City Council which manages the market and the Market Traders to agree the exact positioning of pitches.
Diagonal Path	The diagonal path that crosses the market place is being removed.	The path is not being removed nor was its removal ever a part of the current proposals. It will remain and be marked out using metal studs in the surface.
Parked Vehicles	Most respondents thought the removal of parked vehicles would improve the market place. Some expressed concern over disabled parking.	Parked vehicles will be removed – returning the market place to pedestrians. Replacement disabled parking spaces will be provided along Blue Boar Row.
Lighting	Most respondents supported the need for improved lighting in the Market Place.	The improved lighting scheme will be as proposed.

Issue	What you said	How we responded
Trees	Some people expressed concern over the loss of trees.	Independent expert advice is that the existing trees are damaging the surface of the square and will continue to do so unless replaced. Many are also diseased. They will be replaced in part with large semi-mature trees planted in special tree pits to avoid future problems.
War Memorial	A comparatively small number of people expressed concern about the relocation of the War Memorial.	The team believe that the relocation of the War Memorial will allow for a better setting for the Remembrance service and will work closely with the British Legion on the sensitive re-siting of this important monument.
Cost	Many respondents expressed concern that this scheme would be expensive and for this reason now is not the right time to be doing this.	By making the proposed changes to the scheme major savings will be achieved from the original budget. We believe that this investment is essential to support the economic future of the city. The current run-down appearance of the Market Place lets down the city in a way that is damaging to its economic success and future prospects.

The Market Place proposals were subject to public consultation as part of a RIBA-led design competition held in 2008 / 09, at which time the design team led by Letts Wheeler were appointed.

More recently, the scheme inspired by the winning entry has been the subject of public consultation during November and December 2010. The revised proposals will be consulted upon again as part of the planning application process which will be taking place over the coming months.

Notes to editors

The Salisbury Vision project is a joint private and public sector initiative to revitalise key areas within the city of Salisbury whilst ensuring that its historic uniqueness is protected.

Aims of the partnership include creating high-quality facilities, new jobs and an improved and sustainable environment for the people of Salisbury and beyond.

The Board of Salisbury Vision includes representatives of Wiltshire Council, Salisbury City Council, Salisbury City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Salisbury City Centre Management, Salisbury Civic Society, Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury City Community Area Partnership, Salisbury Area Board and South Wiltshire Economic Partnership.

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