

LEIGH PARK CENTRE

REPORT ON CONSULTATION EXERCISE SUMMER 2009

1.0 Introduction

This report sets out the background to the Leigh Park Centre project and the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken between April and August 2009.

2.0 Background

Hampshire County Council and Havant Borough Council are working in partnership on the delivery of environmental improvements at Leigh Park Centre. Leigh Park Centre is the focal point of Leigh Park, but there are areas where it can be improved.

The objectives for these improvements are to create:

- An attractive and busy centre for the community;
- A positive impression for both residents and visitors;
- An environment that is safe and accessible for pedestrians of all ages and levels of physical ability; and
- A place that residents can take pride in.

3.0 Financial support

Recent housing and retail development in the area means that funding is now available to help carry out environmental improvements in Somborne Drive and to improve facilities for cyclists in the centre. The following financial support has been secured:

- Hampshire County Council Regeneration of Older Urban Areas Initiative 2009-2010 Programme - £200,000
- Havant Borough Council - £150,000

It is hoped to confirm a budget increase utilising external funding, secured from development in Dunsbury Way, and available for improvements to off-road cycle facilities in the vicinity of Leigh Park Centre.

4.0 Project development

Following meetings with key stakeholders, preliminary site investigations, surveys and technical studies undertaken by the two councils during the period autumn 2008 to spring 2009, outline proposals were prepared for environmental improvements in Somborne Drive and for improved facilities for cycling to the centre. It was agreed that the views of the public should be sought during summer 2009 in order to enable development of the proposals in the autumn and winter of 2009 / 2010.

5.0 Consultation exercise

The following consultation was undertaken:

5.1 Leigh Park Community Board

A short presentation of the preliminary proposals for Leigh Park Centre was made to the Leigh Park Community Board (LPCB) on 15 June.

The possible improvements presented focussed primarily on Somborne Drive, tackling one of the key entrances in to the centre, but also included ideas for Bishopstoke Road and Dunsbury

Way. The ideas included street tree planting to Somborne Drive, improvements to the pavements and opportunities for roadside car parking, and a new crossing area for pedestrians between Lidl and Park Parade. The ideas also featured new seats, litter bins and cycle stands creating a welcoming and attractive entrance to the centre. A copy of the exhibition material is available on this web site. The meeting was well attended.

5.2 Business Workshop

In order to respond to the requirements of businesses at an economically challenging time, and reflecting their stake in the future of Leigh Park Centre, a small exhibition of proposals (see this web site) was held at the Leigh Park Learning Centre in the Greywell Centre between 11:00 and 2:00 pm on Friday 19 June 2009. A total of 55 letters were hand delivered to local businesses by Havant Borough Council's Retail Support Manager, on 15 June. The letter included details of the wider consultation on 30 June.

Disappointingly, not a single business visited the exhibition.

5.3 Public exhibition June / July 2009

A public exhibition of the proposals (see this web site) was held in the Borough Council's events trailer in Park Parade on 30 June. The trailer was staffed and open to visitors from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

The display was available to view at Leigh Park Library in Park Parade from 2 – 7 July and on line at <http://www.havant.gov.uk/havant-8449matory>. Links to this site were provided at the County Council's website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage.html>. Both sites remained active until 24 July.

The arrangements for the public exhibition were publicised in The News under the heading '*Residents given chance to have say on spending*'.

The exhibition in Park Parade was well attended with estimated 80–100 visitors. The website received 159 visitors.

5.4 Leigh Park Task Force

A short presentation of the proposals was given to the Leigh Park Task Force Meeting on 17 September. The Task Force supported the proposed enhancement scheme and looked forward to seeing the work progress on site next year. It was suggested that detailed design proposals could be exhibited in the Portsmouth City Council Housing Office on Stockheath Road when available.

6.0 Summary of consultation response

Questionnaires (see web site) were provided at the exhibition and on line. The closing date for responses was 24 July 2009. Comments at the Leigh Park Community Board were recorded separately.

A total of 40 completed questionnaires were received. The overall response was as follows:

- Agree – 20 (50%)
- Disagree – 16 (40%)
- Neither agree nor disagree – 4

The questionnaire provided an opportunity for comment and an analysis of these follows. A summary of the questionnaire responses is available at appendix one.

6.1 Analysis of consultation responses

A range of issues were recorded by the respondents and these are set out below. However, one issue in particular had a significant impact on the headline results.

Of the 16 (40%) negative returns, the key reason for disagreement in 11 (27.5%) instances was a preference for financial support to be made available for Front Lawn Recreation Area and specifically the bowling club.

The remaining 5 (12.5%) negative returns cited concerns about parking and a preference for funding to be utilised on alternative schemes.

The significant concerns listed by those who neither agreed or disagreed with the proposals included parking provision and standards of maintenance.

6.1 Key issues

A list of the issues included on the completed questionnaires is given in appendix two.

The key issues highlighted by respondents are considered to be:

- Traffic - Parking charges and enforcement; speeding; residents parking;
- Maintenance standards;
- Standard of retail provision;
- Improved seating;
- Need for signage (especially to Front Lawn); and
- Poor quality of public realm at library centre entrance.

These are consistent with the comments received at the Leigh Park Community Board meeting on 15 June 2009. Additional issues raised at the Community Board were:

- Ensure proposals do not jeopardise long term aims for Park Parade;
- Need for improvements at access to Park Parade off Dunsbury Way;
- Improve access to centre from neighbouring roads; and
- Consider provision of more facilities for cyclists.

6.3 Response to Consultation

A list of the issues included on the completed questionnaires and the recommended response is given in appendix two.

The majority of the consultation responses support the proposals. Objections to the scheme were for reasons beyond its scope and for which the available funding is not applicable. It is considered that relevant comments and suggestions can be accommodated within the further detailed design development of the scheme. It is not proposed to alter the overall approach.

The business community will again be contacted once detailed proposals have been prepared.

APPENDIX ONE – Summary of questionnaire results

Q1 Do you agree or disagree with the proposals for Leigh Park Centre?

Agree	20	Disagree	16
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Q2 Do you have any comments about the proposals for Leigh Park Centre?

38

The following questions are optional and will help us ensure that we are reaching our community.

Q3 Are you?

Male	16	Female	22
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Q4 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes	3	No	23
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Q5 Which of the following age bands do you fall into?

Under 25	1	45-54	7
25-34	3	55-64	5
35-44	3	65+	17

Q6 How would you describe your ethnic origin?

White – British	35
White - Irish	0
White - Other White Background (please state below)	0
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	0
Mixed - White and Black African	0
Mixed - White and Asian	0
Mixed - Any Other Mixed Background (please state below)	0
Asian or Asian British - Indian	0
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	0
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	0
Asian or Asian British - Other Asian Background (please state below)	0
Black or Black British – Caribbean	0
Black or Black British – African	0
Black or Black British - Other Black Background (please state below)	0
Chinese	0
Other	0
Other please state	2

**APPENDIX TWO – Record of comments
Leigh Park Centre - Public Consultation June / July 2009**

Results of questionnaire

Record of comment	Response
<p>I believe you need to incorporate decent shops and something for young people to do in the area. A youth club that encourages the youth to do things for themselves and the community. There are too many charity shops in the area and not enough proper shops. Probably the rents for the shops are too high. I suspect security and crime is high too, so needs to be tackled.</p>	<p>The scheme will enhance the attractiveness of the centre for businesses, visitors and residents alike. The provision of a youth club in addition to existing facilities is beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Hampshire County Council's youth services and Havant Borough Council's Community Team.</p>
<p>Improve Park Parade. Its looks and feels old and under used!</p>	<p>The scheme supports the improvement of Park Parade</p>
<p>What I would like to see is improvement to the bowls club as I have been a member for many years and the efforts to improve the facilities have constantly hit brick walls.</p>	<p>Improvements to the bowling club are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>I play bowls for Leigh Park Bowling Club at Front Lawn Recreation Ground. For many years my club has been told on MANY occasions that no funding has been available to improve the facilities of my club. To hear that £400,000 is available, & being spent on private lands saddens me considerably. Spread this amongst the community not just one project!!!</p>	<p>The scheme is an investment in a high profile area of the public realm on land that is within the ownership and responsibility of the County and Borough Councils. Improvements to the bowling club are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>In the Portsmouth News, dated January 2nd 2006, when there was a Pride of Place building in the Greywell Centre, they were asking the general public to submit their ideas with a sketch of what they would like to see in the Centre. I submitted a sketch of a Wishing Well with Greywell on a semi circle above it, which was printed in the newspaper, what has happened to that scheme.</p>	<p>The scheme will consider the opportunity for public art and signage during design development</p>

<p>Yes coz the Bowls club is not up to Data with modern stuff AND you don't spend money on good stuff you spend it on CRAP!!</p>	<p>No comment</p>
<p>More fencing and general maintenance around Bowling Green.</p>	<p>Improvements to the bowling club are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>Admittedly it would be good to make Leigh Park a more pleasant environment but I feel more should be spent on the recreation green and surrounds, including the bowls green surrounds which needs fencing.</p>	<p>Improvements to the bowling club are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>This money could be better spent on sports facilities within the Leigh Park area for example the Bowling Club which has no changing rooms. Lets try and keep the elderly people of the borough enjoying their only sport that keeps them fit and healthy.</p>	<p>Improving the appearance of the centre encourages visitors to use the full range of facilities, enhances wellbeing and access to services. Improvements to the bowling club are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>The sum of money involved is sizeable and shouldn't be used purely to maintain the appearance of the shopping area. Far better for it to be used to enhance the recreational area of Front Lawn. Leigh Park Bowls Club urgently need fencing around the perimeter as the present fencing is ugly, non-effective and possibly dangerous to intruders (the tennis courts have no nets!) The bowls club has many members and visiting teams needing better changing facilities. All of these people support the local shopping centre.</p>	<p>The scheme will enhance the attractiveness of the centre for all visitors. Improvements to the bowling club are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>Any improvement to Leigh Park is good.</p>	<p>No comment</p>
<p>I don't like council money being spent on private property to make it look better. The council should spend money on its own property ie. Front Lawn Rec and Leigh Park Bowling Green.</p>	<p>The scheme is an investment in a high profile area of the public realm on land that is within the ownership and responsibility of the County and Borough Councils.</p>

<p>Yes. I think this is a waste of funds. Surely people are more important than roads and trees. Funds should be spent on improving sports facilities for the young and old. ie. Leigh Park Bowls Club, and also creches for the very young.</p>	<p>Improving the attractiveness of the centre is a significant contribution to raising the quality of life and individual wellbeing. Improvements to the bowling club and creche facilities are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>Have been a member to Leigh Park Bowls Club for many years. Havant Council have promised and know they have retracted their promises ever since. This is one of the few outdoors activities for older people to enjoy in the summer being penalised by Havant Council policy.</p>	<p>Improvements to the bowling club are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>I'm an OAP. I'm a member L.P. Bowls Club. It's the one thing that keeps me fit and I enjoy, it's friendly and safe, it could do with updating. Changing room too small, plus other things, why don't you visit Friday coffee morning, talk to members, help the elderly.</p>	<p>Improvements to the bowling club are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>Trees for shade in the Park Parade shopping centre. With the climate change Park Parade can do with them. Also better seating there. The concrete blocks are an eyesore and don't improve the look of the shopping area outside the shops. It needs trees as well as those in Somborne Drive. There are so many empty shops- why not open the empty Woolworths site into a good (not Jumble or car boot) indoor market place for good Tradespeople. Signposting for the Leigh Park Bowling Club- Half the people including the Drivers do not know it is there.</p>	<p>The scheme will consider the opportunity for incorporating additional tree planting, improved seating and signage during design development.</p>
<p>I would like to see improvements made to Front Lawn Recreation Park in particular the Leigh Park Bowls. Too much money is spent on roads- cars do not rule the world!</p>	<p>Improvements to the bowling club are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>

<p>I agree to a point. I agree with the proposals for the shopping centre. The Highlawn Way/Somborne Drive end needs attention to improve the parking for the people living that end of the road. Front Lawn Rec. needs more police patrols to control the "yobs" who use the park for their own use.</p>	<p>Supportive comment. The scheme will consider the opportunity to improve on-road parking in Somborne Drive. Front Lawn Recreation issues are to be referred to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer</p>
<p>Issues with Orion Centre. Library Centre Entrance does not look good.</p>	<p>The scheme will include improvements to the setting of the library.</p>
<p>Remove drinks from street. Clear litter up. Educate people not to drop litter.</p>	<p>Maintenance issues are to be referred to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Hampshire Highways South</p>
<p>Support Primark coming to Woolworths shop (x3 people) to improve shopping facilities.</p>	<p>The scheme will improve the shopping centre environment and support existing facilities. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Business Development Team</p>
<p>Need to address parking problem at Bingo times with road full of parked cars and taxis. Parking refunds from shops may encourage people to use the car parks. Consider lowering the rates in shops.</p>	<p>Refer to Havant Borough Council's Business Development Team and Parking and Traffic Team</p>
<p>More greenery, proposal looks good. More street cleaning. Slow traffic down.</p>	<p>Supportive comment.</p>
<p>More respect from people- litter and vandalism. Unsure about reopening Park Parade to traffic. Centre is tatty. Taking care of things- v. important.</p>	<p>The scheme will improve the shopping centre environment. The re-opening of Park Parade to traffic is not part of the current proposals.</p>
<p>Traffic speeds- slower. Improving the appearance Maintenance Ellis Field Rd. No access for HGV.</p>	<p>Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Parking and Traffic Team</p>
<p>I disagree with the proposals as it will be a complete waste of taxpayers money to plant more trees for the yobs to destroy. Motorists park where they like now i.e. on double yellow lines etc flouting the law. The police and P.C.S.Os completely ignore them and just ride away. I would like the money spent on off street parking at Ringwood House end of Somborne Drive, and a Park Keeper to protect our precious park in Front Lawn!</p>	<p>Improvements to off street parking and Front Lawn Recreation are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding. Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team and Sports Development Officer, and Parking and Traffic Team</p>

30 min free parking would allow people to pay rent or report a repair- without parking on the streets, + leads to issues on neighbouring roads with people looking for free parking.	Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Parking and Traffic Team
Are the park prices going up. Concerned at the reduced road width. Chewing gum should be banned.	Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Parking and Traffic Team
Stop parking on yellow line in front of entrance to disabled ramp to library. Grass verge next to library needs regarding- it has been churned up.	The scheme will include improvements to the setting of the library and the west end of Park Parade. Parking issues are to be referred to Havant Borough Council's Parking and Traffic Team
Speed of traffic (camera) CCTV Flat area to cross	The scheme will include provision to slow traffic down and improved opportunities for pedestrians to cross.
Agree also with framework. Access across verge and Creche! problem	The scheme will include improvements to the verge near the library.
Some improvement, trees brighten area up. Looks like a Car Park at present. 40 yrs ago shopping centre was good. More shops, electrical + toys.	Supportive comment
Range and quality of shops- more Better maintenance Remove dead/dying trees Parking is expensive- parking happens on side roads	Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Open Spaces Team, Business Development Team and Parking and Traffic Team
Centre is a disgrace Park Parade is dead. Boarded-up shops. Rent + state of shops. Premises above not of a good standard. Car parking- get rid of fees (Asda is free) Unattractive	Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Business Development Team and Parking and Traffic Team
You need to have a small contractor to run a small choo train for children. Also a small fountain. Also an old person tea room for the winter and summer evenings.	Suggested improvements are beyond the scope of this scheme and available funding.
Shoppers park in Billy Lawn Ave to avoid parking charges. Want more shops, not trees.	Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Business Development Team and Parking and Traffic Team
Parking charges- why? Deprived area, failing shops- reduced charges for parking.	Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Business Development Team and Parking and Traffic Team

<p>Reduce Parking. Parking on zig Zags + Keep clear. Speed more than 20mph + Billy Lawn Ave speeding. Look into Residents Parking.</p>	<p>Refer comments to Havant Borough Council's Parking and Traffic Team</p>
<p>Nothing is mentioned on your plans regarding a 'proper' pedestrian crossing from the Lidl side to the Park Parade side of Somborne Drive, crossing points only confuse both drivers and pedestrians...feel that a zebra or puffin crossing would be safer for all concerned.</p>	<p>The scheme will provide a wide raised table, reduced road width and include measures to slow traffic in order to improve crossing facilities for pedestrians.</p>
<p>On-street parking already causes problems, maybe a parking area just by Nat West bank as the road is often clogged up with drivers stopping to use the cash machines, there are plenty of car parks....reducing the parking charges would help stop this problem..but guess that will not happen.</p>	<p>The scheme will include improvements to on road parking in Somborne Drive. Parking charges are to be referred to Havant Borough Council's Parking and Traffic Team</p>
<p>Somborne Drive is a 'nightmare' when the Bingo is on...it is dangerous, there are cars, mainly disabled, parked the whole length of the road, so hopefully something can be done to address this problem.</p>	<p>The scheme will include improvements to on road parking in Somborne Drive.</p>