

## TOP OF TOWN PUBLIC REALM

# You Said, We Did

Bradford Council has secured funding to carry out highway improvements and sustainable landscaping works to an area of the City Village locally known as the 'Top of Town', focused on North Parade, Rawson Square and Northgate.



Funding has been secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and European Regional Development Fund to develop plans for improvements to the public spaces at the 'Top of Town' with a view to these public realm works being rolled out to the wider City Village area in the future. The public realm improvement project will be used to deliver improvements that help tackle climate change, the risk of surface water flooding, as well as helping to preserve and protect the environment of the conservation area.

Following various stages of community engagement, two design options had been drafted for a final round of feedback to be received. The design options reflected all of the responses we had received from community stakeholders, local businesses, residents and individuals with an interest in the project.

The ambition to create a safe, healthy, attractive and community friendly environment with a high quality public realm which supports existing and new businesses, but also protects the City Centre Conservation Area's inherent heritage qualities remains the same.

Most feedback said that relocating the statue of Richard Oastler back to Rawson Square (where it had been located from the 1920s to the 1960s) did not offer sufficient additional benefit, when compared with the option to retain the statue in its current location on Northgate. The designs for a new green space surrounding the historic statue were well received.

The split of opinion identified in early phases of community engagement between those respondents favouring retaining local parking, and those who favour a significant reduction of provision, or even the pedestrianisation of North Parade, remains. Some concerns expressed again were over how businesses would be able to trade if on-street parking and space for deliveries was affected, but others were frustrated that the designs had not done enough to remove vehicular activity from North Parade. Pragmatic design changes have been proposed that maintain on-street parking and loading bays in key locations at the top end of North Parade, but the principle of increasing the amount of pavement area to create a more visitor/customer friendly environment has been retained in the project. Rising bollards will be installed on North Parade to allow the space to be more easily pedestrianised for street events - the designs tested against anti-terror standards for crowd safety.

Some concerns were expressed over the potential spread of the canopy of the proposed street trees, but the species selected retain a more upright form, that will not affect nearby buildings. Additional cycle storage provision has been added into the final designs. The suggested palette of hard landscape materials was well received for its quality and how it will improve the setting for the historic buildings at the 'Top of Town'.

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1. Hornbeam Street Trees



2. Multi-Stemmed Birch



4. Porphyry, Granite and Yorkstone Paving



3. Yorkstone Sets



5. Bench

6. Stone Planters

