

CHILHAM SQUARE

Community Engagement Exercise

Second Scheme Development Workshop

7pm, Thursday 8 July, Chilham Castle

Briefing Note

Thank you for your continued willingness to act as a community representative in the scheme development workshops. We appreciate that your participation to date has required sacrifice, but encourage your continued input. In order to prepare you for the next workshop we want to acquaint you with the workshop objective and agenda in advance.

Workshop Objective

The objective of the second scheme development workshop is to *progress the work done at the last workshop and, ideally, generate one option to take back to the community. Depending on the level of consensus reached, it may be necessary to take back more than one.* The identification of a set of practical and achievable design parameters associated with a single buildable scheme continues to be the final goal.

Like the previous workshop, attention will focus on workable square arrangements (i.e. locations and spaces allocated to parking, movement and seating or left open and clear to retain valuable views). However, we also want to discuss materials and finishes and continue debating physical and operational improvements to Taylor's Hill Car Park. Please re-acquaint yourself with the meeting records of the workshops held to date.

Community Will

The concerns and aspirations expressed at the open workshop continue to set the tone for our work, providing a scale against which option arrangements and details can be assessed.

As a reminder, issues and aspirations were ranked as follows ...

- 1) PARKING - control of some type, with Taylor's Hill Car Park being an integral part of any solution
- 2) MOVEMENT - needs addressing to ensure the simple and safe movement, particularly pedestrians
- 3) GUIDANCE - signs required to clarify routes and location of parking
- 4) ATMOSPHERE, APPEARANCE & USE - whatever is done needs to be simple, in-keeping with historic character, protective of building and castle-church views and flexible enough to allow community use

Further, the voting exercise revealed ...

- a clear case against treating the Square as a pure through route or completely pedestrianising it
- a clear case for a substantial but not “draconian” reduction in parking provision in the Square
- strong support for retaining school drop-off/pick-up activity in the Square
- very strong support for seating plus space and electrical supply for special events - greenery was not quite as popular - lighting and special features were very definitely not popular
- a clear case for minimal or low-level traffic delineation and public space features and keeping parking out of the sight line between the church and castle
- maintaining sight lines down side streets had support, but not nearly as strong as keeping Square building frontages and the church-castle sight line clear

The options that we identify to take back to the community will need to show how these aspirations are met.

Meeting Record

In order to expedite business on the night, please could you provide feedback on the previous workshop and, more particularly, comments and corrections on the meeting record to Simon Doyle in advance (020 7602 7282 or DoyleSP@halcrow.com).

Agenda

The agenda for the evening follows ...

1. INTRODUCTION
 - Introductions, “housekeeping” issues, previous workshop, ...
2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE
 - Clarification concerning evening's business
 - Traffic data
 - Layout examples
 - Groups
3. GROUP EXERCISE
 - Developing Square layouts that respect community aspirations and concerns
4. GROUP FEEDBACK
 - Feedback on group work
 - Identifying layouts to take back to the community
5. OPEN DISCUSSION
 - Materials and finishes
 - Taylor's Hill Car Park
6. CASE STUDIES
 - What others have done in comparable situations
 - Useful insights, positive and negative, for Chilham
7. CONCLUDING MATTERS & MEETING CLOSURE
 - General (opportunity for additional comments)
 - Next workshop