

# Bath Local Centres High Street Improvement Scheme Phase 2



## November 2024 engagement - summary and analysis

Published March 2025

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	3
<b>Prior engagement and scheme delivery</b> .....	4
<b>Ways to respond</b> .....	5
<b>Engagement responses</b> .....	6
Weston High Street: location-specific comments.....	6
Weston High Street: general comments .....	14
Moorland Road: location specific comments .....	16
Moorland Road: general comments.....	22
<b>Next steps</b> .....	25
<b>Appendix A</b> .....	26
<b>Appendix B</b> .....	27

## Introduction

This report summarises the comments received about the concept designs produced for Phase 2 of the Bath Local Centres High Street Improvement Scheme (BLC Scheme). It also sets out how the comments will be used to finalise the design.

The BLC Scheme delivers high impact, lower cost interventions to improve the attractiveness and vitality of four local high streets in Bath. Phase 1 of the scheme comprises the Twerton High Street and Mount Road projects and Phase 2 of the scheme comprises the Weston High Street and Moorland Road projects.

Across the Scheme, the following types of interventions are being delivered:

- Street furniture
- Improved cycle storage
- Art installations
- Seasonal street dressing
- Community events
- Pop-up shops/meanwhile uses
- Sensory garden and raised planters
- In-ground planting including trees
- Hanging baskets with seasonal iterations of planting
- Shopfront improvement grants
- Deep cleaning/maintenance
- Signage and wayfinding improvements

The total scheme budget of £453,000 consists of grant funding from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) and B&NES Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. £308,692 of the funding is from the MCA, with the remaining £145,000 being CIL.

## Prior engagement and scheme delivery

Initial community engagement for Phase 1 & 2 of the scheme took place in Winter 2021-22 and the feedback gathered through this process led to the production of concept designs for each local/district centre. The initial concept designs were used to support a funding bid to the MCA, which was approved in Spring 2022. This MCA funding is being used alongside CIL funding to deliver the scheme.

In Autumn 2022, we asked for people's views on the Phase 1 concept designs and updated the designs to respond to people's comments. We began delivering Phase 1 interventions in Autumn 2022.

Alongside Phase 1 delivery, we have been monitoring the situation 'on the ground' in the Phase 2 locations and we have received feedback from stakeholders in an informal manner. This information was used to update Phase 2 concept designs, before presenting them for comment in an engagement period which ran from 1<sup>st</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This report sets out the comments received within the engagement period and how we have used them to finalise the Phase 2 design.

## Ways to respond

The engagement period ran between 1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Within this period, the concept designs were hosted on the Council’s website on the scheme web page: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-local-high-streets-improvement-scheme>.

Written responses were invited via email and received at the following address: [regeneration\\_team@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration_team@bathnes.gov.uk). This enabled respondents to share long-form responses and for them to engage directly with the Project Manager.

A number of in-person events were held in the local centres. These were staffed by the Project Manager and members of the Regeneration Team familiar with the scheme. The events were drop-in, informal events in accessible venues. Information about the proposals was shared on large engagement boards. Comments were written on post-it notes and recorded digitally following the event.

You can see the engagement boards shared at the events in Appendix A.

Please see event information in Table 1 below:

<b>Tuesday 5th November</b> 3.30pm – 7pm Church Hall, Weston Free Church, High St, Bath, BA1 4DB
<b>Wednesday 6th November</b> 3.30pm – 7pm Main Hall, Oldfield Park Baptist Church, Triangle East, Bath, BA2 3JD
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b> 10am – 12pm Church Hall, Weston Free Church, High St, Bath, BA1 4DB

The Project Manager also visited as many businesses and organisations in the local centres as possible, with discussions taking place in-person at their premises.

Local Councillors were engaged prior to the engagement period.

## Engagement responses

The responses received were either specific to one of the locations listed on the engagement material (see Appendix A), or more general.

You can see the full list of comments in Appendix B.

## Weston High Street: location-specific comments

### Location 1 – Weston High Street



**The most common comment was a request to keep the stone trough planters as they are currently.**

The next most common responses were to:

- Retain the stone trough planters, but move them to a different part of the pavement
- Indicate that there are still some issues with parked cars encroaching onto the road

**The following responses were also received:**

#### Street furniture

There were mixed views about a bench in this location, as well as some comments indicating a dislike for the current stone trough planters. There was also a request for an additional bin at this location.

#### Trees

There were mixed views about trees, with feedback indicating that they would not be supported in this location alongside enthusiasm for replacing the stone trough planters with trees. There were some concerns about how trees would be cared for.

#### Other

There was a request for the addition of a drop kerb to improve accessibility and an indication that the phone box is an eyesore. People also shared ideas about management regimes for planting.

### **What is proposed as a result of these comments?**

- The stone trough planters will be retained in their current position
- The feedback about parked cars has been shared with the relevant department within the Council
- A bench will be put in place at this location, however we will not add additional planters next to these, due to concerns about ongoing maintenance alongside the stone trough planters
- Work on the addition of a drop kerb is already in progress
- As there are already three public bins in this location, we will not be investigating whether another is needed
- We will consider whether space is available for trees in this location, as well as the stone trough planters, without reducing accessibility – however this will not be a project priority due to the mixed feedback received

## Location 2 – Weston High Street



**The most common response was support for ground cover planting in this location.** We received a number of suggestions about the type of planting that would be appropriate.

The next most common responses were to:

- Indicate support for a curved bench
- Request that this space is made a 'focal point' of the high street

**The following responses were also received:**

### Street furniture

People requested that the curved bench has a backrest and one comment indicated a preference for a circular bench that surrounds the tree instead. There were requests for an additional bin and a suggestion that 'Weston Village' signage could be put in place at this location.

### Planting

There was some concern about planting obstructing visibility required for cars and it was also suggested that a large planter should be put in place next to the curved bench, rather than ground cover planting.

### Other

We received comments indicating that there are issues with parking in this area, as well as unpleasant drainage smells.

### What is proposed as a result of these comments?

- Proposals remain as indicated in the concept design
- We will consider accessibility when selecting a curved bench, and a backrest will be included on part of the bench
- Planting will not obstruct visibility for cars



Bath Local Centres High Street Improvement Scheme: Phase 2  
November 2024 engagement – summary & analysis

- We will consider whether an additional bin could be put in place at this location
- Comments about parking and drainage have been passed on to the relevant Council teams

## Location 3 – Weston



The most common response was a request to replace the conical planter in this location.

The following responses were also received:

- Request for repainting/restoration of water pump
- Request to repair or tidy the lower steps near the pump

What is proposed as a result of these comments?

- Conical planter will be replaced by a circular planter that is appropriate in this setting
- Discussions will be undertaken locally about opportunities to support restoration of the water pump

## Location 4 – Weston High Street



**The most common response was a request that no benches or planters are put in place along the kerb line.**

The next most common response was support for a bench in this location.

**The following responses were also received:**

### **Street furniture**

There were mixed views about whether a bench would be supported in this location, due to concern about antisocial behaviour, which has been an issue in the past. People also requested that a bin was put in place at this location.

### **What is proposed as a result of these comments?**

- We will look into whether planters could be put in place in the area of the pavement that is adjacent to the shops

## Location 5 – Weston High Street



There were fewer responses to the suggestions at this location than others, however all comments were unsupportive of cycle racks at this location.

### What is proposed as a result of these comments?

- We will not pursue additional cycle racks as part of the project

## Location 6 – Weston High Street



**The most common response was a request to replace the conical planters with another type of planter.**

The next most common responses were:

- To make more of a feature of this space, including creating space to hang wreaths rather than place them flat onto memorial
- Uncertainty about the location of the existing bench, due to space constraints and/or the way it faces

**The following responses were also received:**

### Plants

People suggested using evergreen plants in the new planters and requested that the planter material is sympathetic to the street context. There were also some comments in support of the tree locations at this end of the high street.

### Maintenance

People requested maintenance of the war memorial.

**What is proposed as a result of these comments?**

- Conical planters will be replaced with another type of planter which is sympathetic to the local context and supports another option for displaying wreaths
- We will replace the bench at this location with one that does not have a backrest, meaning that people can face either way when using it
- We will investigate responsibility for war memorial maintenance and what is required

## Weston High Street: general comments

### The most common responses were:

- Requests for accessible water points for people maintaining plants
- Request to organise market events, e.g. monthly farmer's market, village market etc
- Support for fastigate trees on high street
- Indication that pedestrian accessibility issues (relating to hard landscaping) were still an issue

### The next most common responses were:

- Indication that street cleansing requires improvement, including weeding of pavements
- Support for local events

### The following responses were also received:

#### Street Furniture:

There was support for more benches, tree and planters on the high street.

#### Green infrastructure

Respondents suggested that new planters should have a 'self-watering' reservoir to reduce the regularity of watering required. They also suggested that a planter could be located at the junction of Weston Lane / Crown Road / High Street too.

People shared their planting preferences, e.g. herb garden, sensory focus, window boxes on private properties, hanging baskets.

People shared their concerns about trees being located on the high street, including considerations about tree longevity/disease hardiness and tree leaves blocking gutters.

#### Accessibility and Safety

People asked that accessibility is considered when selecting bench design and that pavements were widened. They also shared their concerns about vandalism and requested that bins were stored out of sight.

#### Transport and Mobility

There were a number of requests to reduce the presence of cars on the high street through various means, e.g. pedestrianise the high street, addition of parklets, cycling contraflow, pay and display parking, planters in the high street.

People indicated that additional cycle stands were not required in any location along the high street. They also indicated that the cycle stands outside 20-22 High Street (currently Tesco Express) are too close to the building and cannot be used.

### **Community and Heritage**

There were requests to help enhance/restore historical features of the high street and also to maintain the community noticeboard.

### **Art and Street Dressing**

There was support for seasonal decorations and art installations.

### **Businesses**

There was a request to make space outside 124a High Street (currently Café 25) for tables and chairs, this request would restart an earlier pilot project where we were planning to support Western Café. There was also a request for a pop-up shop.

### **What is proposed as a result of these comments?**

- Replacement planters will include a self-watering reservoir to reduce their maintenance requirement
- We will review options for providing accessible water points for people undertaking planter maintenance
- Feedback on pedestrian accessibility (relating to hard landscaping), transport and street cleansing has been shared with the appropriate Council teams
- Following discussion with the business, unfortunately we cannot revive the project to make space outside 124a High Street (Café 25) for tables and chairs
- More benches will be added to the high street and the accessibility of these will be considered
- We will consider suggestions for sensory / herb planting

If the scheme programme allows, we will also:

- Review potential locations for market and event activities, with set up guidance and initial funding to follow if feasible
- Move forward with testing locations for street trees
- Consider the addition of a planter at the junction of Weston Lane / Crown Road / High Street
- Undertake reviews of the condition of heritage assets

## Moorland Road: location specific comments

### Location 1: Moorland Road



#### Comments specific to this area included:

- A requirement for the space to remain quite open, so that parent and toddler groups have space for waiting
- Suggestion that signage should indicate that the public are welcome to use this space, as for some this may not be immediately clear
- Suggestion of improved maintenance, such as hedge cutting

#### What is proposed as a result of these comments?

- The design will ensure that sufficient space is kept for people waiting to access the Church Hall
- Signage will be put in place to ensure that the public know they can use the space, however it does remain in private ownership and antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated



## Location 2: Moorland Road



No specific comments received about this location.

### Location 3: Moorland Road



No specific comments received about this location.

## Location 4: Moorland Road



No specific comments received about this location.

## Location 5: Moorland Road



A comment was received which indicated that it was difficult for pedestrians to cross the road here, due to existing road markings not providing sufficient clarity.

### **What is proposed as a result of this comment?**

This information will be shared with the appropriate Council team.

## Location 6: Moorland Road



No specific comments were received about this location.

## Moorland Road: general comments

### The most common responses were:

- Support for all proposals
- Concerns about street cleanliness, e.g. concerns about litter, requests for weeding, requests for advertising on lamp posts to be removed, request for phone box to be cleaned, requests for graffiti removal
- Support for hanging baskets in the locations suggested, e.g. on the high street, but also in locations such as outside the library

### The next most common responses were:

- Requests for upgraded seating / more seating
- Concerns about street clutter, including stock from shops blocking footways
- Indication that shoplifting is an issue – requests for CCTV to be installed and suggestions that shops should be more proactive about how they arrange stock to discourage theft

### The following responses were also received:

#### Street Furniture

People requested that the bin outside 50 Moorland Road (currently Backhouse Bet) is removed and that a bin is put in place outside 22 Moorland Road (formerly News for You). People also requested that bollards were removed.

#### Green infrastructure / environment

Businesses indicated their support for narrow planters outside of 8-10 Moorland Road (currently Panahar, Madison Oakley and Virtuoso) and their commitment to future maintenance.

There were requests for additional green infrastructure on adjacent roads and in private gardens.

There were concerns about the ongoing maintenance of hanging baskets and trees, as well as poor environmental habits from businesses.

#### Accessibility and Safety

People indicated that seating with backrests was important and that mobility scooters need more space. They also suggested that hanging basket poles could be painted in a colour that offers more visual contrast against the surrounding street.

People were concerned about the safety of the street and suggestions included widening pavements, removing/reducing traffic and reducing the number of idling cars. People indicated that crossing the street is difficult, particularly for children and older people and suggested a number of ways to address this.

## Transport and Mobility

Respondents requested that current bicycle parking is not removed and that if possible, additional bicycle parking is put in place which is very secure. There were a number of suggestions about how this could be achieved.

People requested the addition of bollards on Shaftesbury Road, to deter people from parking on the pavements.

There were also requests for traffic calming near the Community Library and that scheme funding should be reallocated to improving road surfaces across the area.

## Community and Heritage

People had a number of ideas for high street events and suggested local venues for these.

People requested additional community amenities e.g. GP Surgery.

People indicated their support for wayfinding and a community noticeboard, to signpost people to community organisations and amenities.

There was support for a high street style guide that enhances the Victorian features.

## Art and Street Dressing

There was support for street dressing and murals in keeping with the character of the area.

## Other

Respondents requested that Moorland Road itself remains the focus of the project proposals. They also suggested that the project provides support for older people and that social media is used as part of the project approach.

People also shared their maintenance concerns about the public toilet and graffiti.

## What is proposed as a result of these comments?

- A number of deep cleanses of the high street will be arranged
- There will be additional seating out in place and the current seating will be upgraded; all seating will have backrests
- Hanging baskets will be put in place, with hanging basket poles being refurbished
- We will bring art to the high street through artist-designed signage
- Issues with street clutter will be addressed wherever possible within programme constraints, this includes repositioning of cycle racks
- If possible, narrow planters will be added to the area outside 8-10 Moorland Road as this is a wider area of pavement
- We will investigate support for events in venues adjacent to Moorland Road and opportunities to support seasonal dressing

Bath Local Centres High Street Improvement Scheme: Phase 2  
November 2024 engagement – summary & analysis

- We will not move forward with the proposal to replace awnings for businesses



## Next steps

Where possible we have responded to the feedback and revised the final designs accordingly. Delivery will begin in March 2025, with as much of Phase 2 as possible being delivered in Spring 2025.

### **In summary, the following interventions will be prioritised:**

#### Weston High Street

- Additional and replacement seating
- Ground cover planting
- Five replacement planters with self-watering reservoirs and the opportunity to hang wreaths

#### Moorland Road

- A number of deep cleanses of the high street will be arranged
- Additional seating and replacement current seating; all seating will have backrests
- Hanging baskets will be put in place, with hanging basket poles being refurbished
- We will bring art to the high street through artist-designed signage
- Additions/maintenance to Shaftesbury Road Memorial Gardens, which support the high street

### **If the scheme programme allows we will also:**

#### Weston High Street

- Support community markets and events
- Investigate the opportunity for street trees
- Maintain/restore heritage assets
- Replace bins
- Add an accessible water point for easier plant maintenance

#### Moorland Road

- Address issues with street clutter e.g. repositioning of cycle racks, removal of redundant signage poles, repositioning of bins
- Add narrow planters to the area outside 8-10 Moorland Road as this is a wider area of pavement
- Investigate support for events in venues adjacent to Moorland Road and opportunities to support seasonal dressing

## Appendix A

Boards available at engagement events and on the Council website

Please see separate document.

## Appendix B

### Full list of comments

<b>Location 1 – Weston High Street</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
Move planters	3
Don't want trees	1
Concern about tree maintenance	2
Want bench	1
Don't want bench	1
Replace planters with trees	2
Keep planters as they are	6
Dislike current planters	1
Put in drop kerb	1
Add a bin	1
Ask businesses to sponsor and maintain planters	1
Use empty square of Curo land for planting	1
Parking still an issue – rear of cars in parking spaces stick out into road	3
Phone box needs to be improved	1

<b>Location 2 – Weston High Street</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
Supportive of curved bench	3
Bench needs backrest and/or handles for accessibility	1
Would prefer a circular bench around the tree	1
Additional bin required at this location	1
Make this a high street focal point	2
Concern about new ground cover planting obstructing view from cars	1
Supportive of new ground cover planting here – perennials, reeds and willow mentioned – suggestion to review planting at Bear Flat Bloomfield Rd/Wellsway	5
Issues with drainage smells in this area	1
Issues with parking in this area	1
Put a larger planter next to bench in this area, rather than ground cover planting	1
Could a 'Weston Village' sign be put in place at this location	1

<b>Location 3 – Weston High Street</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
Replace conical planter	2
Repaint water pump	1
Repair or tidy the lower steps near the pump	1
Arrange for the water pump to be put back to use	1

<b>Location 4 – Weston High Street</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
No bench and planters along kerb line	6
Planters should be adjacent to shops	1
No bench required in this location	1
Supportive of a bench in this location	3
Supportive of planters in this location	1
Concern about antisocial behaviour in this location	1
Bin required at this location	1

<b>Location 5 – Weston High Street</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
Nothing needs to be done in this location	1
Concern about whether there is space for bicycle racks	1
Additional cycle racks are not needed	1

<b>Location 6 – Weston High Street</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
Replace conical planters	4
Use evergreen plants in planters here	1
Planter material must be sympathetic to surroundings	1
Unsure about location of bench – due to space constraints and/or the way that it faces	2
This location should be the focal point of the project	1
Fix war memorial pointing	1

Mark space out more, e.g. use chains that remembrance wreaths can be hung on	2
Supportive of tree locations	1
If bench is replaced, can the existing bench be relocated elsewhere in the village	1

<b>General comments – Weston High Street</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
Supportive of benches, trees and planters	1
Can we encourage people to meander between Church St and the High St	1
Pedestrian accessibility issues (relating to hard landscaping)	4
Supportive of fastigate trees	4
Unsure about trees	1
Concern about the lifespan of trees and their disease hardiness	1
Concern about tree leaves becoming slippy, and/or blocking gutters	1
Requirement for accessible water points for people maintaining plants	4
Consider accessibility when selecting bench design	1
Not supportive of additional cycle stands	1
Preference for herbs to be included in planting	1
Maintain noticeboard / add another	1
Organise market events, e.g. monthly farmers market, village market	4
Preference for sensory aspect to planting	1
Concerns about vandalism	2
Street cleansing requires improvement, including weeding of pavements	3
Supportive of all proposals, particularly of enhancing historical features	1
Supportive of heritage asset restoration	1
Would like planting at Weston Ln/CrownRd/High St triangle	2
Cycle stands outside Tesco are too close to building and cannot be used	1
Green infrastructure most important	1

Bath Local Centres High Street Improvement Scheme: Phase 2  
November 2024 engagement – summary & analysis

Dislike bins being located immediately next to benches	1
Widen pavements	1
Self-watering planters would be a good idea	1
Window boxes for private properties	1
Request for businesses to store bins and boxes out of sight	2
Supportive of seasonal decorations	2
Pedestrianise high street	2
Supportive of events	3
More benches needed	2
Supportive of art installations	1
Reduce presence of cars on high street, but do not pedestrianise, through various means including: parklets, cycling contraflow, pay and display parking, planters in the high street	1
Supportive of additional planters	1
Would like a pop-up shop	1
Provide more outside space for coffee shops	1
Request for hanging baskets	1

<b>Location 1 – Moorland Road</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
Space used by parent and toddler groups, this needs to continue	1
Hedge cutting needed	1

<b>Location 5 – Moorland Road</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
Road markings need to be reviewed for clarity – difficult for pedestrians to cross the road here	1

<b>General comments – Moorland Road</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times this comment was received</b>
Bicycle parking needed at Co-op/Scala	1
Pavement parking an issue at Shaftesbury Road – add bollards	1
Seating with backrests is important	1
Mobility scooters need more space when in motion and when parked	2

Bath Local Centres High Street Improvement Scheme: Phase 2  
November 2024 engagement – summary & analysis

Supportive of hanging baskets, locations suggested, such as outside library	7
More seating / upgrade seating	6
Issues with street clutter, including stock from shops blocking footways	6
Project should pay for graffiti removal	1
Supportive of all proposals	7
Street less accessible due to removal of parking at Scala	1
Concern about ongoing management of hanging baskets	2
Events at library supported – a number of ideas proposed	1
Supportive of murals in keeping with area character	1
Supportive of community noticeboard – potentially using one outside old bank	1
Street cleansing needs to be increased / concerns about litter / weeding / advertising on lamp-posts / phone box needs to be cleaned / graffiti removal	11
Street dressing: flags – supportive of these for special occasions	1
Maintenance concerns about public toilet	2
Bin placement: bin needs to be replaced outside newsagents	2
Supportive of wayfinding for community organisations and amenities	2
Crossing street is difficult, particularly for children and older people. Suggestions include more formal/informal crossing points on high street, moving existing crossings, hand rails down pavement steps, 'safe walking route' for school children	5
Do not remove any cycle parking	1
Accessibility: Hanging basket poles should be painted so there is a greater contrast with surrounding street	1
Would like trees to be planted on adjacent roads	2
Supportive of street dressing	2
Events: bring back Flower Day	2
Events: support Xmas lights switch on	1
Enhance Victorian features – create a high street style guide	1

Bath Local Centres High Street Improvement Scheme: Phase 2  
November 2024 engagement – summary & analysis

Support additional community amenities, e.g. GP Surgery needed	1
Would like additional cycle parking, which is extra secure	2
Improve private gardens adjacent to high street	1
Use social media to support project	1
Shoplifting is an issue – suggestion that CCTV should be installed and shops should be more proactive about how they arrange stock	4
Can the project provide support for older people	1
Support narrow planters outside of businesses	2
Events: use Oldfield Park Baptist Church hall as a venue	1
Bin placement: move bin from outside Backhouse Betting	1
Widen pavements and remove traffic – safety concerns about street	1
Traffic calming required near the library	1
Remove unattractive bollards	1
Event: support a Chinese New Year event	1
Event: support a Spring event	1
Event: support a 'meet Santa' event with mulled wine available	1
Concerns about trees getting too big/cluttering the pavement	2
Suggestion of planters and hanging baskets along route from Moorland Road to Shaftsbury Road Memorial Gardens	1
Issues with takeaway restaurant putting fat down drains	1
Moorland road must remain the focus of the proposals	1
There is currently uncertainty about the future of the Resident's parking Zone as it is not yet permanent. Request that it is made permanent	1
Addition of cycle hangars in parking spaces requested	1
Idling cars are an issue	1
Funding should be spent on improving road surfaces instead	1