

Queen Square Rejuvenation Bath, Public Consultation Summary Report- September 2014

Public consultation about the enhancement of Queen Square, Bath was undertaken by Bath & North East Somerset Council between 07/07/2014 - 27/07/2014.

Forty-two responses were registered on the Queens Square Rejuvenation web site. A full record of comments received is shown in the accompanying spreadsheet (see link). Further comments were received from outreach meetings.

The following is a summary of the key statistics and themes raised.

Consultation Summary

Bath & North East Somerset Council has committed £100,000 in its 2014/15 budget to improve Queen Square. This has been allocated to conservation and access works within the gardens, improvements for cyclists and enabling the square to better accommodate festivals. The Council sought public comment on the proposed investments.

The Council also invited the public to give their views on the priorities for future improvement to Queen Square. This is to help inform any potential further investment programming.

A consultation questionnaire was posted on The Council's consultation website. A link to the project proposals was provided. www.bathnes.gov.uk/queensquareproject

Notification of the engagement was delivered to neighbouring residents. An information board was mounted within Queen Square and leaflets were made available at BRLSI during the consultation period.

99% of respondents supported the 2014 improvement package.

The majority of respondents considered the future priority should be to tackle the impact of traffic congestion on the square.

Additional Feedback

In addition to responses received through The Council's website, meetings were held with The Federation of Bath Residents Associations and The Bath Preservation Trust. Both supported the investments. However, FoBRA expressed some concern about the potential increased frequency of closures of the square to the community to host private or civic events. FoBRA also articulated some concerns about loss of car parking and increased congestion.

Previous Engagement

On 19 June 2014 a launch event of the £100,000 improvements was held for residents and stakeholders of the square hosted by Thrings in Queen Square. About 40 guests attended. Guests were able to learn about the £100,000 commitment and question The Council about the improvements. Residents were invited to engage with The Council's formal consultation. Media Clash also hosted exhibition boards at the Bath Boules Festival from 20 – 22 June.

In 2012 public consultation was undertaken by B&NES Planning Service in connection with the planning consent to reinstate the east and west gateways (ref 12/00012/REG04) granted 16/03/2012.

In 2011/12 residents and the wider community were consulted on emerging proposals to improve Queen Square.

Statistical Summary of the Consultation Feedback



- 1
 - 21% of respondents used the square daily
 - 19% used the square weekly
 - 57% used the square occasionally
 - 3% never used the square

- 2 In response to the question. I like..
 - 60% liked the green space and open aspect
 - 29% liked the fact it was a public or community space
 - 14% liked the events
 - 26% thought it was beautiful, quality of space and architecture
 - 7% liked places to sit
 - 11% like the quiet
 - 2% liked specific features ie the obelisk

- 3 In response to the question what I don't like...
 - 76% traffic
 - 21% lack of entrances
 - 21% pedestrian unfriendly
 - 9% rubbish lying around
 - 7% too many trees
 - 7% too many railings



4 In response to the question are the improvements a good idea...

- 93% responded yes

5 In the request for additional comments and suggestions;

- 33.3% wanted traffic management, restrictions on use

- 7% reduce the number of trees

- 7% reinstate the original John Woods Design

•The remainder were a mixture of single comments relating to pedestrian friendly design,better maintenance and restricting cycles to roadways.



6 In response to the question would you like more events in the square?

- 76% said yes

- 19% said no

7 In response to the question what are your ideas for events..

- 17% food
- 14% music
- 12% acts
- 12% arts including book festival
- 10% outdoor cinema
- 5% ice skating
- 5% historical reenactments
- 5% markets
- The remainder were single comments on cycle, environment, talks and speakers corner.

8 In response to after the 2014 revamp what is the next priority for improvement...

- 48% reduce traffic
- 12% better for pedestrians
- 5% reduce trees
- 5% improve maintenance
- The remainder were single comments on better lighting, entrances, bins, ban dogs, and add cycle infrastructure.

9 In response to the question do you have any additional information, 43% offered more information comprising;

- Promote cycling
- Concerns over traffic management reducing square to two sides of traffic only
- Air quality
- Rebalancing in favor of pedestrians
- More parking for residents
- Remove creeper
- Corner gates required
- Concerns over temporary road closures while works are undertaken.

