

Hucknall Town Centre Improvement Scheme

Exhibition: results, comments and actions

1 October 2012

Summary

1. A 3 day staffed public exhibition was held in Hucknall on 6 – 8 September. The exhibition was to provide an update on the scheme and explain the minor changes that had been made to the scheme since the planning application was submitted in December 2009.
2. A questionnaire was provided and to date there have been 316 full or partial responses.
 - 74% of respondents agreed that the High Street suffers from too much traffic which creates a poor environment for shoppers.
 - 69% of respondents agreed that the proposed pedestrian zone on the High Street between Baker Street and Watnall Road will create a more appealing shopping environment.
 - 25% of people agreed that buses should have access to the pedestrian zone, and 68% disagreed.
3. Other general comments received were:
 - Car parking in the town centre should be free (at least for the first 1-2 hours) to encourage people to shop
 - More shops are needed in the town
 - The new road is only being built for the benefit of Tesco, and the scheme will further kill the town.

Introduction

4. A public exhibition was held on 6th, 7th, 8th September 2012 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) at a stand alone market stall in front of the Post Office on the High Street. The display boards used are included in appendix 1.
5. Posters advertising the event were attached to lamp columns and railings a week before the event. In addition the event was publicised in the Hucknall Dispatch and on the County Council website.

6. The market stall was very visible, the weather was good, and the stall was very busy on all three days.



7. There were 3 to 4 members of staff on hand at all times dealing with enquiries. This included discussing the impacts on the scheme on affected residents and traders.
8. A questionnaire was used at the exhibition – this is attached as appendix 2. Visitors to the stall were encouraged to fill in the questionnaire while they were there, or if they did not have the time were given a questionnaire to take away with a freepost envelope. The questionnaire and display boards were also made available on the NCC website.
9. The week after the exhibition, the display boards were erected in Hucknall library and left with a set of questionnaires until 28th September 2012.

Questionnaire results

10. The first two questions sought to establish the current views of the operation of the High Street and then the views on how the scheme will impact on the shopping street. Of the 316 responses
- 74% of respondents agreed that the High Street suffers from too much traffic which creates a poor environment for shoppers.
 - 69% of respondents agreed that the proposed pedestrian zone on the High Street between Baker Street and Watnall Road will create a more appealing shopping environment.
11. The next questions sought respondents views on which users should be allowed to enter the pedestrian zone on the High Street once it is created. This information will be used to influence the design of the scheme and will be subject to further consultation via the Traffic Regulation Order process.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Cyclists	39%	54%	7%
Buses	25%	68%	7%
Blue badge holders	35%	54%	11%
Special access permits	71%	22%	7%

12. The respondents age profile is as follows:

0-17	1%
17-25	5 %
26-44	24 %

45-54	16 %
55-64	24 %
65+	30 %

13. A full summary of the responses (not including comments) is included as Appendix 3.

General feedback

14. Many of the people that attended the exhibition were convinced that the scheme was funded by Tesco to provide quicker links to the superstore.
15. Of the people that were given an overview of the scheme, most were appreciative of the new junction layout at Ashgate Road/ Station Road especially the improved pedestrian crossings over the road, and the new links to the tram/ train stops.
16. A comments box was included on the questionnaire to capture any other concerns/ comments. The main comments received were:
 - Parking needs to be free or at least for the first 1 or 2 hours
 - Business rates need to be lowered
 - New shops need to open up offering a variety of choice
 - Build the scheme as soon as possible
 - The scheme will kill the town
17. Many traders and residents who will be directly affected by the scheme had the chance to look at the new scheme layout and air their views. Over 100 A3 plans of the scheme were handed out, in addition to business cards for further contact. Tim Slater in Property Services has been instructed to contact residents directly affected by the scheme who attended the exhibition.
18. A comment book was also available on the stall, and the results have been inputted to a spreadsheet for review/ action.

Next Steps

19. The issue of town centre parking charges needs to be raised with Ashfield DC.
20. Discuss with Ashfield DC their strategies to attract new shops to the town.
21. Proceed with the scheme as designed including the bus link. A review of the bus link layout is ongoing in discussion with affected/ adjacent landowners.
22. Review the design taking into account the comments received including the impact on residents of Albert Street and Mill Yard.
23. Submit revised planning application.
24. Continue to acquire land by negotiation.



Why are we here today?

Nottinghamshire County Council received confirmation last November (2011), that the Department for Transport (DfT) would provisionally fund the majority of the proposed Hucknall Town Centre Improvement scheme.

Staff from Nottinghamshire County Council and Ashfield District Council are here today to update local residents and traders about the scheme and answer any questions you may have.

What are the aims of the scheme?

- To regenerate the town centre and attract new shops
- To reduce traffic congestion within the town
- To improve the environment for everyone using the town
- To enhance public transport provision



What are the next steps?

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| October 2012 | – submit planning application |
| May 2013 | – publish statutory orders |
| September 2013 | – hold public inquiry (if required) |
| September 2014 | – start construction |
| May 2016 | – open scheme |



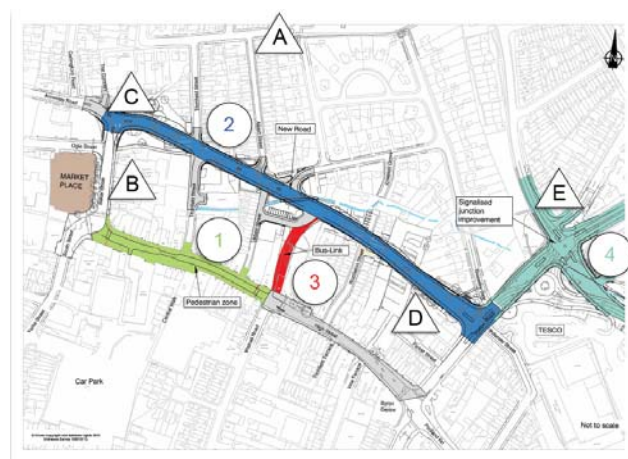
What does the scheme involve?

(Numbers and letters below are marked on the scheme plan)

- 1 A pedestrian zone created on the High Street (Watnall Road to Baker Street section only).
- 2 A new road running parallel to the High Street which will accommodate the displaced traffic.
- 3 A new 'bus only' link road which will connect the new road with the High Street/Watnall Road junction.
- 4 A new junction controlled by traffic lights at Linby Road/ Ashgate Road to replace the existing roundabouts.

What has changed to the scheme since the previous planning application?

- A The 'Connery link' has been designed out of the scheme.
- B Baker Street will now remain open to all traffic.
- C A new mini-roundabout at Annesley Road/ Baker Street included to reduce impact on the Mill Yard area.
- D The cycle/footway is now on the town centre side of the new road.
- E The walk routes between the tram/ train stops and the town centre have been improved by changing the layout of the Station Road/ Ashgate Road junction.





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Appendix 2



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Please take time to look at the display boards, talk to the staff on hand and then answer the following questions:

1. Do you agree or disagree that the High Street suffers from too much traffic which creates a poor environment for shoppers?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Don't Know ☐

2. Do you agree or disagree that proposed pedestrian zone on the High Street between Baker Street and Watnall Road will create a more appealing shopping environment?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Don't Know ☐

3. Do you agree or disagree that the following groups should have access to the pedestrian zone? *These responses will help shape the scheme as it progresses. Please note that further consultation on this issue will be undertaken at the appropriate time.*

a) **Cyclists** Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Don't Know ☐

b) **Buses** Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Don't Know ☐

c) **Vehicles displaying a blue badge (formerly orange badges)**

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Don't Know ☐

d) Vehicles displaying a Special Access Permit (severely disabled)

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Don't Know ☐

Please use the space below to provide any additional comments on the scheme.

Please tell us a little bit about yourself

What is your postcode?

What is your age?

0-17 ☐ 18-25 ☐ 26-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐

Do you consider yourself to be disabled? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please specify disability:

Communication ☐ mobility ☐ hearing ☐ physical ☐

learning ☐ visual ☐ mental health ☐

Other

Are you a special access permit holder? Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you a blue badge holder? Yes ☐ No ☐




Do you use buses in the town? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you cycle in the town? Yes ☐ No ☐


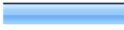

Thank you for your assistance.

**Please place your completed form in the box
provided.**

1. Do you agree or disagree that the High Street suffers from too much traffic which creates a poor environment for shoppers?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree		73.8%	228
Disagree		22.3%	69
Don't know		3.9%	12
answered question			309
skipped question			7

2. Do you agree or disagree that proposed pedestrian zone on the High Street between Baker Street and Watnall Road will create a more appealing shopping environment?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Agree		69.4%	215
Disagree		23.5%	73
Don't know		7.1%	22
answered question			310
skipped question			6

3. Do you agree or disagree that the following groups should have access to the pedestrian zone? These responses will help shape the scheme as it progresses. Please note that further consultation on this issue will be undertaken at the appropriate time.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Response Count
Cyclists	39.2% (118)	54.2% (163)	6.6% (20)	301
Buses	25.3% (77)	68.1% (207)	6.6% (20)	304
Vehicles displaying a blue badge (formerly orange badges)	35.1% (106)	54.3% (164)	10.6% (32)	302
Vehicles displaying a Special Access Permit (severely disabled)	70.5% (210)	22.8% (68)	6.7% (20)	298
answered question				307
skipped question				9







4. Please use the space below to provide any additional comments on the scheme:

	Response Count
	122
answered question	122
skipped question	194



5. What is your postcode?

	Response Count
	290
answered question	290
skipped question	26








6. What is your age?

		Response Percent	Response Count
0-17		0.7%	2
18-25		5.4%	16
26-44		23.6%	70
45-54		16.5%	49
55-64		23.9%	71
65+		30.0%	89
answered question			297
skipped question			19



7. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		17.2%	51
No		82.8%	245
answered question			296
skipped question			20



8. If yes, please specify disability:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Communication		2.2%	1
Mobility		60.0%	27
Hearing		17.8%	8
Physical		26.7%	12
Learning		6.7%	3
Visual		4.4%	2
Mental health		13.3%	6
Other (please specify)			2
		answered question	45
		skipped question	271


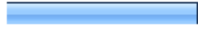
9. Are you a special access permit holder?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		2.1%	6
No		97.9%	286
		answered question	292
		skipped question	24



10. Are you a blue badge holder?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		8.9%	26
No		91.1%	265
answered question			291
skipped question			25

11. Do you use buses in the town?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		64.3%	191
No		35.7%	106
answered question			297
skipped question			19

12. Do you cycle in the town?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		23.4%	69
No		76.6%	226
answered question			295
skipped question			21