

Statement of Community Involvement/Engagement Summary



City Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

The consultation exercise was designed to encourage readers to consider the document as a whole and how sections interconnect, and therefore respondents were asked about the individual sections and chapters of the document. There were 30 questions, which equated to 218 separate pieces of feedback from 36 respondents as well as further ten pieces of feedback via email correspondence to our HAZ email address. Overall the comments were focused on the following themes:

- Condition of the buildings in terms of cleanliness, impact overall appearance and a sense that it is 'run down', highlighting a need for restoration and repair.
- Awareness of the type of architecture and divisive opinion over the heritage value of the buildings. The document helped to raise the awareness of the special characteristics of the buildings
- Ways to improve the commercial appeal of the city centre in reference to empty units, making streets look more attractive and improving the night time economy offer.
- Recognising non-designated heritage assets
- Accessibility in terms of appropriate paving and improve usability
- Greening of the city centre and improving biodiversity.

These were the primary themes coming through the comments and the document already addressed much of the feedback. Some additional paragraphs were added to incorporate the feedback:

- To increase opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and greening over the area including living walls, bee pollinating plants, wildflower mixes, bird/bat boxes, bee bricks or hives.
- To ensure high quality materials that are fit for purpose, appropriate for the use and location to which they relate and are local where possible.
- To consider the need to intensify the City Centre by bringing more people into the City and keeping them there longer, reuse vacant buildings, increase residential, reconnecting the area to its neighbours, and re-animating the public realm and ensuring it is adaptable.
- Recognising the Reel cinema as a non-designated heritage asset

Overall, the document makes a balanced assessment of the conservation area in terms over future management. A full account of the comments can be found in the statement of community engagement.