

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Quarry Bank Local Centre Regeneration Strategy

March 2009

Notes of Public Exhibition- March 2009

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Quarry Bank Local Centre Regeneration Strategy

Notes of Public Exhibition- March 2009

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1 Public Exhibition

16th March 2009, 17:30 to 19:00

Quarry Bank Community Centre, Sheffield Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 1EA

1.2 Introduction

- 1.2.1 This document reports on the results of the second stage of stakeholder consultation conducted by Colin Buchanan (CB) as part of the consultation process relating to the Quarry Bank Local Centre Regeneration Strategy. The aim of the consultation was to receive feedback on the ideas for regeneration and to explore further possible measures for successful regeneration of the Local Centre.
- 1.2.2 The study is being undertaken by CB on behalf of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. The aim of the strategy is to provide an implementation plan to deliver social, economic and environmental improvements, in accordance with the objectives set out in the Council's relevant policies and strategies. The strategy also aims to ensure that local needs and the interests of specific stakeholders and the wider community of Quarry Bank Local Centre are fully taken into account.
- 1.2.3 This report summarises the key issues and views relating to the two draft regeneration options that were presented to the public at the exhibition event held on 16th March 2009. This information will be used to review and amend the design concepts to form a preferred option, which will later undergo consultation as part of the Draft Regeneration Strategy in early summer 2009.

1.3 Exhibition

Facilitated by Sorwar Ahmed, Leena Abraham Shah and Andrew Eggleston (Colin Buchanan)

- 1.3.2 The exhibition event was open to members of the public, as well as stakeholders, to assess and comment on the draft regeneration options.
- 1.3.3 Facilitators were on hand to explain the options in detail and answer any questions relating to them or the study as a whole.
- 1.3.4 Attendees were invited to record their comments independently or with the help of a facilitator if required.
- 1.3.5 The consultation took the following format:
- View the regeneration principles and draft regeneration options;
 - Vote for features of the two options that you like;
 - Submit any other comments relating to the options and study.
- 1.3.6 The four key regeneration principles of the study are:
- Strengthen role of local/ community services
 - Create pedestrian friendly environment while retaining through traffic
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- Reinforce local distinctiveness
- Improve safety and create a better quality environment

Figure 1.1: Attendees in discussion about the proposals presented



1.3.7 The key features of each of the two options can be summarised as follows:

Regeneration Option 1

- Distinctive new gateway entry features at eastern end of High Street:
 - sculptural feature in collaboration with the school/ community, edge tree planting in front of the Labour Club
- Retain existing footway and carriageway:
 - widen footpaths only in 'localised' areas where currently very narrow
- Central stretch of High Street enhanced to become a pedestrian friendly environment and 'heart' of the area
- Resurface pavement and footpaths
- Introduce raised area at existing pedestrian crossing points

Regeneration Option 2

- Modest gateway entry feature at eastern end of High Street:
 - feature welcome signage, wider crossing, edge tree planting in front of the Labour Club

- Reduce width of main carriageway to 7.3 m and widen footpaths throughout High Street
 - widened footpath to include on-street parking lay-bys
- New public square to create a destination for meeting and socialising and act as 'heart' of the area
- Identify locations within High Street for more on-street parking
- Treat surfacing of on-street car parks to look similar to footways so that when not in use, the car parking bays could operated as extended footway space.

1.4 Voting results

1.4.1 Attendees were invited to vote for the features of each option that they liked, according to each of the study's key regeneration principles.

1.4.2 The votes recorded at the public exhibition are set out below.

Which Features/Ideas Do You Like?

Strengthen role of local/ community services

- Re-use the former library building for community use (3 Votes)
- A new public square near the community centre (1 Vote)
- Improved pedestrian amenities, and car parking for convenient access of the various facilities (1 Vote)

Create pedestrian friendly environment while retaining through traffic

- No votes recorded

Reinforce local distinctiveness

- Sculptural feature created in collaboration with the Primary School.1
- All enhancements to reflect the historic character (1 Vote)

Improve safety and create a better quality environment

- General improvements to footways, car parks, public footpaths, with improved lighting and CCTV (1 Vote)

1.5 Results of Other Comments

1.5.1 Once attendees had viewed and discussed the draft options, they were invited to record their comments on an open board. The results of this feedback are set out below.

General Comments:

- If no shops, no pedestrians
 - Re-use of library as community facility unnecessary – use community centre
-

- A forward-looking outlook needed to encourage retailers (chains)
- Retailers won't come if feel unwelcome
- Take-away uses can be controlled through better management – Environmental Health
- Bring back library facilities
- Slow traffic from High Street to Park Road
- Slow traffic from Park Road into High Street
- Good crossing facility to Quarry Bank Park/Church
- Good crossing facility - High Street to Sheppard Street
- Roadwork disruption = loss of business
- Regular street cleaning
- Option 2 with public square is preferable - seating should be provided (at old library and community centre)
- What about the shops – cake shop, bank
- No shops for locals
- Quarry Bank needs more than just regeneration options
- Narrowing road will cause congestion
- Crossing road (at Oak Street) across High Street is very tricky – cars don't give way
- No shops – no need for more car parks
- Post Office gone
- High Street looks a mess
- Town square is a good idea – but needs to be at top of High Street
- Use land behind library for car parking
- Church is more the focus [of Quarry Bank] than community centre – better place for town square

1.6 Key conclusions

Vitality of the High Street

A clear message that came through during this session was that maintaining and improving the vitality of the High Street is key to its success. It clearly identified that the need to attract more footfall on the High Street should be a major focus of the Regeneration Strategy. Locals are keen to have more shops and local services such as post office, banks, estate offices on the High Street. Comments were also made about exploring possibilities to encourage retail chains to set up their outlets at the High Street.

Movement

Another major concern that locals have expressed during the event is the ease of movement of vehicles and pedestrians. The need to introduce more crossing provisions along the High Street and measures to reduce congestion was highlighted. People felt that the proposal to widen footways significantly throughout (as in Option 2) might cause more congestion along the High Street and hence is not preferred.

Quality of public space

While there were various suggestions for the location of new public spaces, the need for good quality public spaces that are well maintained was clearly agreed upon. The need for pedestrian amenities such as good seating was also highlighted.

1.7 Next steps

- 1.7.1 The results of the consultation activities being undertaken as part of the Options stage will be published on the project website and sent to the workshop participants.
 - 1.7.2 The consultant team will use the conclusions of the consultation event to develop a preferred option in line with the needs and interests of the local community and stakeholders for the regeneration of Quarry Bank Local Centre. This will be included in the Draft Regeneration Strategy to be submitted to the Council in summer 2009.
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1.8 Photos of Public Exhibition Results

Figure 1.2: Which ideas do you like?

Which ideas do you like?

Regeneration Principles	Regeneration Option 1	Regeneration Option 2
Strengthen role of local community services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attractive 'places' near key community services with new seating Public toilet facilities at the community centre site Re-use the former library building for community use Improved pedestrian amenities, and car parking for convenient access of the various facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new public square near the community centre Public toilet facilities at the community centre site Re-use the former library building for community use Improved pedestrian amenities, and car parking for convenient access of the various facilities
Create pedestrian friendly environment while retaining through traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced 'central stretch' that appeals to pedestrians and looks less vehicle dominated Widened and frequent pedestrian crossings Localised widening of footway wherever necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much wider footways and the central public square - more space for pedestrians Widened and frequent pedestrian crossings Widening of footway throughout to minimise carriageway width to 7.3 m
Reinforce local distinctiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sculptural feature created in collaboration with the Primary School All enhancements to reflect the historic character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All enhancements to reflect the historic character
Improve safety and create a better quality environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage varied uses along the High Street for improved activity and overlooking throughout the day and late evenings General improvements to footways, car parks, public footpaths, with improved lighting and CCTV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage varied uses along the High Street for improved activity and overlooking throughout the day and late evenings General improvements to footways, car parks, public footpaths, with improved lighting and CCTV

Figure 1.3: General Comments



