

Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF THE FOREST HILL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 10 December 2015 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Peter Bernards, Maja Hilton and Paul Upex

8. Welcome from the Chair - Cllr Maja Hilton

9. Dartmouth Road Update - Les Senior, Project Manager with David Pope and Asim Zeb from the Project Centre

The following presentation; 'Dartmouth Road Public Realm Enhancements – Preliminary Design' was delivered.

This covers the area from Forest Hill station to Forest Hill pools

The key scheme objectives are to:

- Reduce speed to 20mph
- Manage traffic & parking
- Support local economy
- Enhance environment
- Improve sense of arrival in Forest Hill
- Increase pedestrian activity

See attached presentation for designs and update of the Public consultation held between 29th May -30th June 2015.

Further key Consultation timelines are:

- Open 11th December to 15th January 2016
- Leaflets delivered to Dartmouth Rd frontages 11th December
- Plans displayed in Forest Hill Library
- Documents on the Council's Consultation Portal: <https://lewisham-consult.objective.co.uk/portal>
- Comment via email at: transport@lewisham.gov.uk
- Comment via post at:

London Borough of Lewisham Transportation and Highways, FREEPOST,

LON

15647, Laurence House, London. SE6 4RU

10. Dartmouth Rd presentation 10 Dec - FINAL

11. CPZ Update - Cllr Maja Hilton

The consultation formally closed on 4th December, but will remain open for responses until Friday 11th. There was a drop-in session arranged specifically for local residents and businesses at Forest Hill Library, on Wednesday 18th November. The results will be analysed in December / early January, and we should be in position to make a decision by the end of January. In addition to the attached briefing, the full consultation materials are available online: https://lewisham-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/proposed_cpz_-_forest_hill?tab=files

12. SNT update - PC Michael Hill

Burglary related offences are now declining. We had had a sharp increase in the number or reported offences over September, October and November, though they began to steadily decline towards the end of November.

The team are actively engaged in high visibility Burglary patrols as well as visiting known offenders on a regular basis.

We had three promises set by our ward panel, a group comprised of prominent members of the community such as our Councillors, as well as Mr Adam Turner, the panels chair who represents not only Forest Hill but also the whole of Lewisham as he is also a member of the SNB (Safer Neighbourhood's Board) and Mr Michael Abrahams who is also the Chair for the Forest Hill Society as well as others from residential groups, schools and neighbourhood watches, all representing the greater community.

The tasks set the team till January 12th by the ward panel members and action by us thus far are;

- ASB by motorists - Manor Mount and the town centre - These involve drivers contravening the no entry sign and scooters riding on the pavement in the town centre. A number of motorists have been reported for offences on Manor Mount and the manager of the fast food outlet on London Road has had all of his drivers sign a safe driving agreement.
- Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention - We have and will continue to conduct high visibility patrols in the areas identified through geographical profiling as well as conducting street briefings around this subject throughout the ward.
- Safety of School Children travelling to and from School (Fairlawn Primary on Honor Oak Road) following complaints of motorists verbally abusing the school crossing lady and failing to stop for children when on the zebra crossing. We have and will continue to attend Honor Oak Road in support of the school and it's staff and deal with offenders as necessary.
- We have to date, delivered in excess of 650 Smart Water Forensic property marking Kits to residents in Forest Hill and along with our partner team on Downham are on track to delivering over 2000 kits to residents in our respective wards by April 2016. The kits, known as Met Trace forensic property marking kits are to be delivered to over 440,000 Londoners within the next three years and are self marking smart water kits that forensically link what ever item of property that is marked to the owners of that item. Currently, there is a 100% conviction rate for offenders prosecuted for offences involving items marked with these kits.

The ward panel sits again on the 12th when the above promises are reviewed and changed as necessary to deal with any issues brought to the panel members attention at that time.

One final update regarding the street drinkers in Forest Hill town centre, a number of warnings were issued to individuals who were allegedly acting in an anti social manner. These individuals appear to have taken heed of this and stopped frequenting the town centre. One individual, who was repeatedly subject to such complaints is currently serving a period of imprisonment having been prosecuted and found guilty of other offences including drug related matters.

13. Changes to forest Hill Library Consultation Update -Cllr Maja Hilton

The Mayor agreed to proceed with the community library proposal and stressed that we welcome the involvement of local residents in shaping the “ask” for the anchor organisation. Cllr Upex is proposing to set up a **Forest Hill Library Assembly Working Group** of local residents to discuss the needs and support from local community groups. As the report to Mayor and Cabinet makes clear we are not outsourcing the library service itself as it will work on a peripatetic basis. We are asking the partners to manage the building and run their own services. The timetable for implementation is August 2016 so before entering the formal tendering process we want to make sure we capture the local needs in the library. The Head of Library service, Antonio Rizzo has offered to attend a meeting of the Working Group to talk through process. There is some specific information in the report on Forest Hill Library impact assessment pages 113 – 123 of the Mayor and Cabinet report.

The council needs to save £50 million by 2020. The proposed changes to the Library & Information Service are part of the Budget Savings Proposals that will contribute £1 million from the Libraries’ budget.

The **Proposal** aims to:

- create three Hub Libraries – Deptford Lounge, Lewisham and Downham Health & Leisure Centre – which will carry an enhanced role for face to face contact between the Local Authority and the public to support the digital by default agenda.
- extend the Lewisham Community Library Model to Forest Hill, Torrington, and Manor House, in partnership with other council services and community organisations. And the integration of the library provision into the repurposed ground floor space within the Catford complex (Laurence House).
- review front line staff to include new functions through the re-training and enhancement of front line roles

On 16 September 2015, the Safer Stronger Select Committee considered the proposed changes to the Library and Information Service in the context of the Lewisham Future Programme that set out the Draft Savings.

On 30 November 2015, the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee heard the report on the outcome of the public consultation the Proposal and the soft market test linked to asset transfer of the Forest Hill, Torrington, and Manor House buildings.

The Report **concludes** that

“the consultation on the proposed changes to the Library and Information Service attracted a strong response from residents. Respondents were overwhelmingly opposed to the proposal. A number of alternative proposals were put forward, the majority of which, would be unlikely to achieve the required £1 million saving. On balance, taking into account the strong opposition to the proposal and having considered the alternatives, it is felt that the preferred option laid out in the consultation paper builds on the experience that the council has developed since 2010 in relation to the asset transfer of the buildings and the delivery of library

services through the Lewisham Community Libraries Model. The Model is sound and is sustaining a library service that has increased the satisfaction of Lewisham residents. The link that the council has established with local organisations has proven mutually beneficial, attracting increasing visitors to the community libraries. While it is recognised that the issuing of books has reduced, which requires further efforts from the Library and Information Team across the whole service, this is one of many functions that the libraries provide”.

Specifically on Forest Hill, on 2 December 2015, Cllr Upex suggested that the following – from the **Forest Hill Library Assembly Working Group** – be brought to the attention of Mayor and Cabinet:

While recognising the Council’s difficult budget situation and the need to address it, we believe Forest Hill Library is a valued and valuable community resource and that any proposal to transfer the management and running of it needs to be considered carefully.

We therefore agree to the establishment of a working group of Assembly members, whose remit will include an examination and assessment of the:

1. Financial issues arising out of and information relevant to such a transfer;
2. Feasibility of maintaining some dedicated librarian expertise on site;
3. Range of community needs in the area, how they are being met by other community facilities and groups, and the extent to which the library might complement and supplement that provision;
4. Type and range of income-generating activities consistent with maintaining the integrity of the building, community need and the requirement to attract sufficient levels of funds to help sustain such a resource;
5. Legal obligations on the council and potential partner organisation/s, and the need for a community-led group with which they might be required to consult during any contract process;
6. Contract specification and monitoring that might arise out of a proposal for such a transfer, underpinned by the priority of community need and building maintenance.
7. Although not intended as a prescriptive list, it could provide a starting point for the working group.

The working group with a provision of officer support should aim to meet after Mayor and Cabinet meeting on 9 December, and aim to hear evidence and develop this approach before the Council begins its tendering process.

Forest Hill has a wealth of community groups, who could contribute to this working group, and we hope would wish to do so. Otherwise, we put at risk a cherished community asset.

Safer Stronger Select Committee also recommended that officers maintain communication with all affected local groups as the work progresses.

On 9 December 2015, Mayor and Cabinet agreed

- To note the results of the consultation.
- To agree the proposed saving of £1 million from the Library and Information Service budget.
- To agree to the retention of three hub libraries at Deptford Lounge, Lewisham and Downham Health and Leisure Centre.

- To agree to extend the Lewisham Community Library model to Forest Hill, Torridon and Manor House libraries and for a formal tender process to be undertaken to identify partner organisations to work with the council to deliver this. The council will work with local stakeholders as part of this process.
- To agree to the development of detailed plans for the reconfiguration of the library and public reception area at the ground floor of Laurence House in Catford.

The staff consultation is likely to start in January/February 2016 and likely to end with the reorganisation being implemented in August 2016.

The procurement is to start in February and conclude with the handover in August 2016. The work on the Catford option is likely to follow similar timescales as the procurement.

14. Join the Forest Hill Assembly Coordinating Group

- **Feedback forms – agenda items next meeting**

Cllr Hilton highlighted the importance of completing the feedback forms and invited members to join the coordinating group which plans the assembly and discusses local issues and updates . If you would like to join contact maya.onyett@lewisham.gov.uk for further information.

15. Community information and question time

- **Community Contributor card- Joan Roach, Rushey Green Timebank**

Lewisham Local 'Community Contributor Card' will enable people to get great deals at local independent business and shops who wish to support the efforts of those contributing their time for the benefit of the community. This could be volunteering, time banking, befriending, and initiatives that engage neighbours to do something for their community. This is all about enabling the local community to thrive.

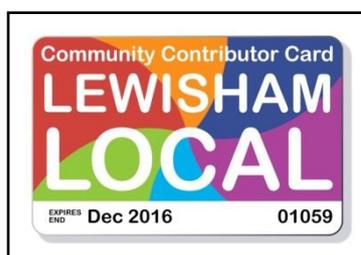
Give Local – Shop Local!



The scheme is underway and we are working in Forest Hill now!

Stickers are already in shop windows of those participating in the scheme, who are offering fantastic deals to card holders.

Contact us if you want to join our growing network.



Community groups and organisations can obtain the card for free, to give to their active volunteers.

Let's start our conversation...

This scheme is managed by Rushey Green Time Bank working in partnership with Volunteer Centre Lewisham

For more information visit www.lewishamlocal.org.uk or contact Joan.

Joan Roach
Project Co-Ordinator

Rushey Green Time Bank
The Rushey Green Practice
Hawstead Road
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joan@rgtb.org.uk

GIVE LOCAL
SHOP LOCAL

- **Horniman update- Tim Corum, apologies sent**
- **Forest Hill Traders - Dorothy Umukoro from Emmanuelle Marshall Children's Shoes**

Dorothy opened up her business on 235 Dartmouth Road in January 2015. she took up the opportunity of a grant which was allocated to support the opening of shops that have been vacant for 6 months or more.

She explained that her end of Dartmouth road can be quiet and invited people to pop even, even if you don't need children's shoes!

She is also part of the scheme that offers a safe place if anyone feels threatened they can come into the shop and use as a 'safe haven'.

Forest Hill Fire Station Update

Cllr Upex explained that there is currently 2 proposals:

1. to reduce a fire engine permanently (there are currently 2)
2. to change the working practises and hours so that the 2 fire engines can remain.

Both proposals cost the same amount of money.

The Forest Hill Councillors are backing the second proposal scheme.

Consultation starts 12th December and ends on 1st February 2016

16. Close

Cllr Hilton thanked everyone for attending.

The next assembly will take place on Saturday 12th March 2016, 2pm, venue to be confirmed.



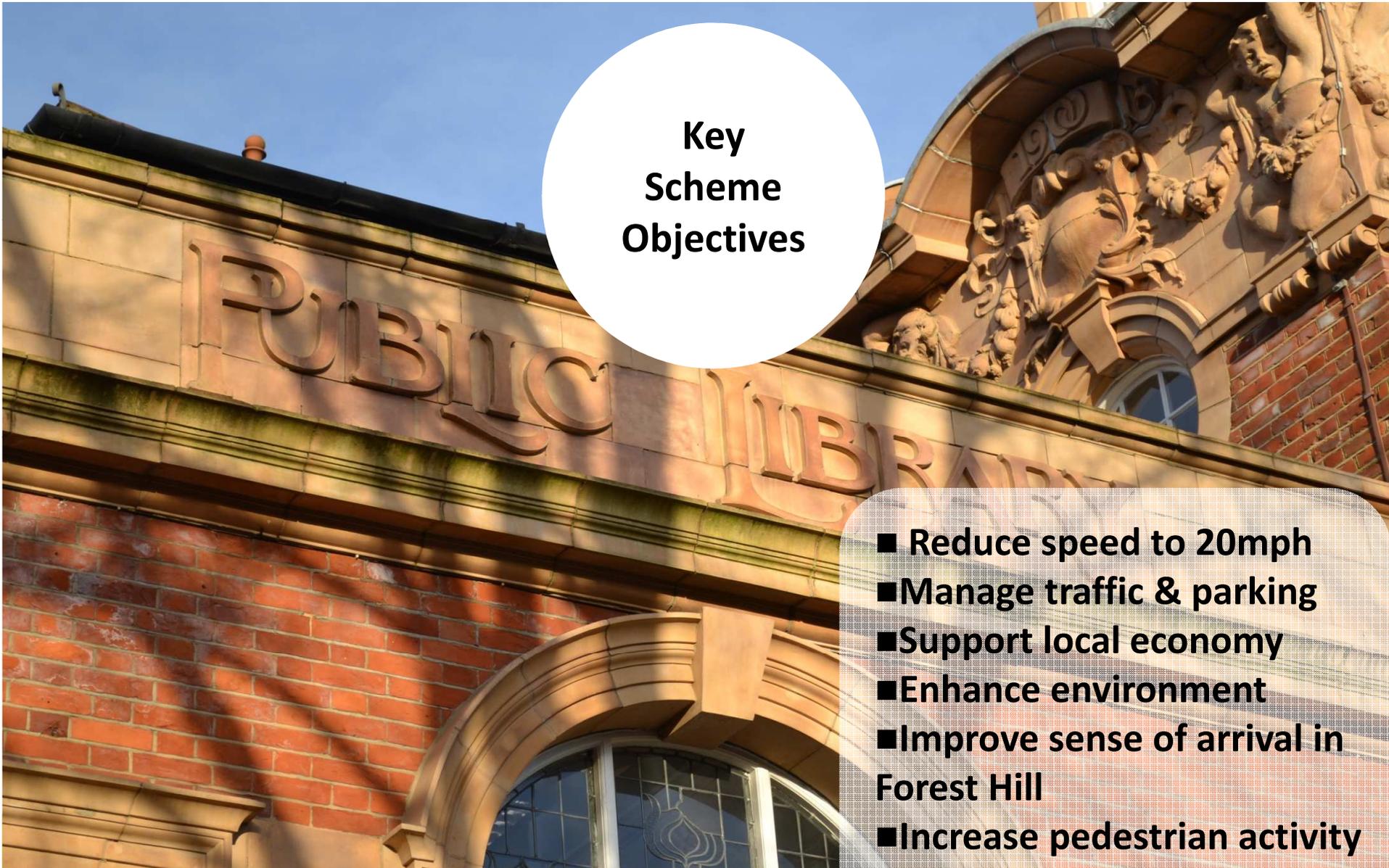
Dartmouth Road Public Realm Enhancements – Preliminary Design

Presentation 10 December 2015

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Minute Item 10



**Key
Scheme
Objectives**

- Reduce speed to 20mph
- Manage traffic & parking
- Support local economy
- Enhance environment
- Improve sense of arrival in Forest Hill
- Increase pedestrian activity



Public consultation – 29th May/ 30th June 2015

26 responses received out of 500 leaflet drops

Positive

- Generally improving the area
- New bus stops
- Improved materials and new trees

Concerns

- If narrowing carriageway, deal with the roadside parking/ loading issues that cause blockages
- 25mm kerb too low to stop driving on the pavement
- Changes to parking outside Forest Lodge
- Is removal of guardrail outside Holy Trinity School by pedestrian crossing safe?
- No obvious cycle provision



How concerns are being addressed

- In consultation with TfL Buses, proposed width of road is now 6.4m
- Entire length of street has double yellow lines – no parking or loading outside marked bays
- Existing number of short term parking bays retained and one disabled bay provided.
- New dedicated loading bays provided at the north end
- Kerb height proposed as 50mm
- Pavement by school is doubled in width, but guardrail by school will be assessed in formal audit to see if any is necessary
- Roads speeds reduced as part of borough-wide 20mph and will assist cyclists to cycle safer in traffic lane. Cycle stands are provided

Preliminary design – scheme plan



This design is subject to detailed design, underground utilities, and road safety audit.

Preliminary design – scheme plan

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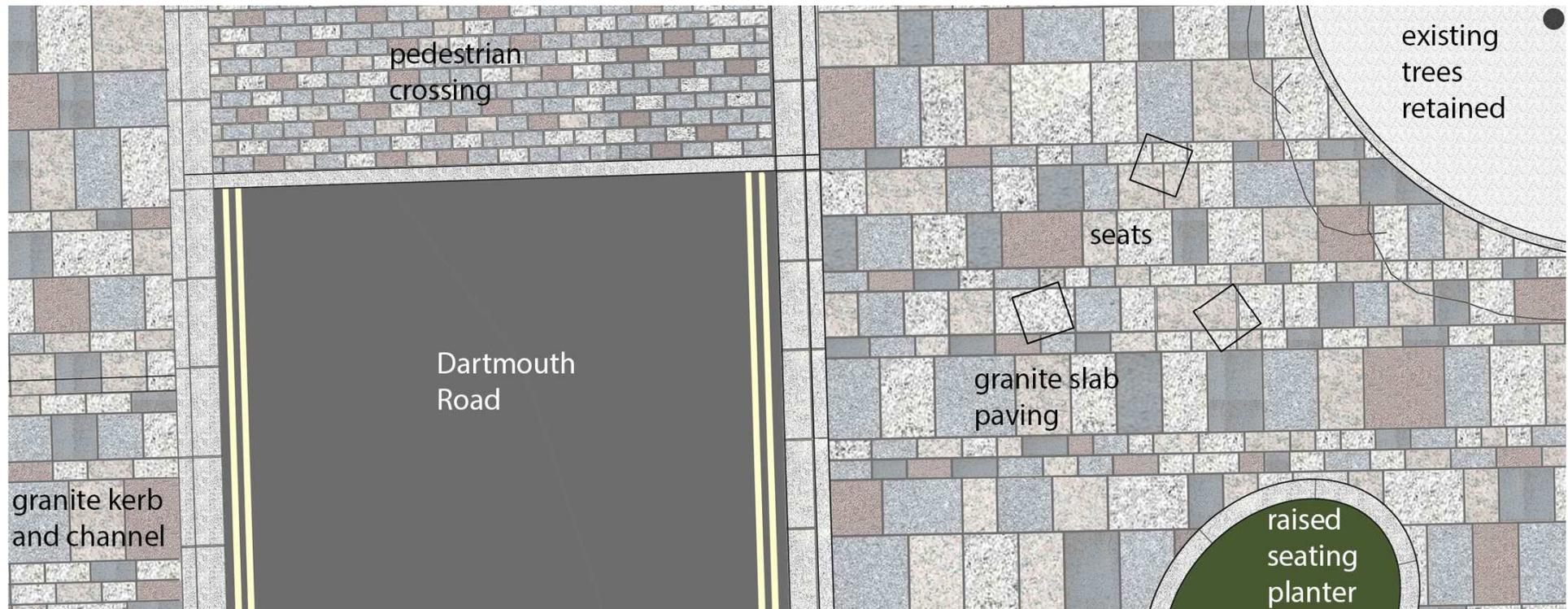


Preliminary design – scheme plan



Materials

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- Granite paving in key spaces and on informal crossing points
- Granite raised planters and walls
- Granite kerb and channel throughout
- High quality large concrete slabs elsewhere on pavements



New public consultation

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Q & A Session