

## **Bracknell Forest Access Group Event Feedback from Regeneration Question and Answer Session**

### Lifts

- Lifts in the town centre have been designed by the Access Consultants to meet British Standards and Building Regulations. They have been designed to accommodate mobility scooters
- Lifts located outside shops will be co-located near shallow ramps to enable full access should lifts be out of order or unavailable due to fires etc
- Maintenance contracts would be in place for all the lifts

### Signage

- Directional totem poles would contain a variety of information. Those with maps would include Braille. The possibility of using Braille on other signs would be explored
- All directional signs will be located in a clear and logical manner
- The possibility of including audio descriptors in signage was being explored as an option

### Handrails

- External hand rails would be kept clear at all times to prevent hands becoming trapped
- Handrails in shops would be built to current building regulations

### Disabled Toilets

- Lighting and alarms would be designed to meet current building regulations and so toilets would have visual and audible alarms
- Existing toilets would be upgraded to meet standards
- Plans were still in development with regard to access to the disabled toilets and this would be something that the Access Group would be asked for their opinions on

### Taxi Ranks and Bus Routes

- An additional taxi rank would be located in the vicinity of Waitrose
- The Bus Station would remain in its current location for the foreseeable future. Any renovation would be a decision for the Borough Council
- The continuation of the Shopmobility service where a mobility scooter is brought to a taxi rank or other drop off point would be a matter for Shopmobility
- The existing bus stop on the Ring in the Northern Retail Quarter would be relocated to two areas: in the vicinity of the Police Station and in the vicinity of the Red Lion Pub
- It was hoped that Real Time information systems would be incorporated into bus stops. Funding for this would be delivered by the Borough Council using Section 106 funds

### Staff Training

- Training of staff to assist specific groups for example the deaf had not yet been considered but the Access group would be approached for their input on this matter
- Once regenerated the town centre would be managed as a whole. Currently all of Princess Square's management team and security staff were first aid trained

### Delineation of Outside Spaces

- It was an aspiration that outside seating areas for restaurants and bars etc would be available all year round. Demarcation of these areas would be made very clear
- There would always be a clear 4 metre wide clear route running through the town centre to enable emergency access

### Disabled Car Parking

- No final decisions had yet been taken on the method of accessing and paying at car parks. Installation of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition based system was being considered as this removed the need for barriers

### Market Street

- Market Street fell outside the regeneration area however Bracknell Regeneration partnership would liaise with the land owner to look at how access to traders might be improved
- Improvement of the paving on Market Street, which was difficult for mobility scooters to negotiate, was a matter for the Borough Council

### Miscellaneous

- The Library would remain in its present location and would remain open throughout the regeneration. A new DDA compliant access route would be put in to enable continued level access
- Breakthrough would remain in Charles Square until the Spring 2014
- Make sure all new premises register with Disabled Go
- Around the town centre there are wall plaques etc i.e. corner of Crossway/ Broadway. Will they be saved?
- Regeneration is an opportunity to take things forward and do things better, make the most of it
- I find walking very difficult but I can (and do) use by bicycle. I would like to be able to cycle through the town centre
- Cyclists? How will they be accommodated? And kept separate from pedestrians?
- Totem height must be appropriate for people in wheelchairs/ disability scooters etc.
- Totem poles: audio much more important than Braille. Most blind and partially sighted people cannot read Braille
- Rest zones: are there seats?
- Priorities: Market Street needs to be a priority
- Reserve matters?, pedestrian permeability, Council lingo!, public realm, vision information, catering blocks, vertical circulation
- Need seats outside for people who need to sit down for a few minutes

- Colour for signs or large writing and picture to tell people with dementia, Alzheimer's, dyslexia
- Where is the war memorial? Any street art too?
- What are the floor surfaces? Some covered areas/ streets, but many open to elements
- What about volunteers to help orientate people like in hospitals? Especially when the town is new
- How will the timber elements be maintained? Many new developments are now faded and peeling, how can we prevent this happening and making the town look tired?
- Are the public toilets going to be open 24 hours a day? If a disabled toilet is close because of work in progress, will there be a notice somewhere? And the nearest one to that one is open and working?
- Bus stops at key access points to town and what about a Town Centre circular that goes around regularly?
- Social space (not purely commercial space) e.g. gardens and meeting areas?
- Taking away a lot of trees, are you putting trees back? Also some trees with name plaques by spiral slope, will that be replanted?
- Are any companies showing interest in occupying new shops?
- How accessible is the town centre from surrounding community centres?