

## Weymouth Station Gateway project Overview – Appendix 1



The Weymouth Station Gateway is a project looking at redesigning the train station forecourt through community and stakeholder consultation so that it becomes a welcoming, attractive and contemporary place. It focuses on pedestrian access and safety as well as providing a sustainable transport hub for some bus services and bikes as well as providing better interpretation and wayfinding. The design will also accommodate up to five rail replacement buses at any one time should the need arise.

The separation of public and private vehicles is designed to be simpler with one-way systems to improve the flow. Public vehicle access and transit routes will travel in front of the main station, while private vehicle will transit via the adjacent car park and utilise a separate exit route allowing a choice of direction not currently available. The change in priority on Queen Street is designed to improve public vehicle exit movements from the station.

### **The key benefits to the community include:**

- Regular commuters will have an improved experience with easier access the station and safer crossing. Those with bikes will cycle directly via the cycle path and safely store their bike.
- Vehicle access will be improved and managed in a more sustainable and coherent way.
- Local business community – attractive landscaping of the area will ensure that the setting for businesses is transformed, and people will

feel safer getting to these businesses at night improving the night-time economy.

- Residents will feel safer in the area and will benefit from the improved commute and uplifted area. Safer, more open, greener pathways through to the industrial park will link these areas allowing more space for people.
- Visitors to Weymouth will have a modern attractive welcome into Weymouth and will encourage more visitors and provide the provision of more space for people to walk safely.
- Buses/coaches will be able to drop off at the train station creating a – better connected transport system

## **Planning**

The design has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority (ref:WP/21/00111/FUL).

## **The Project team and support**

The project is being coordinated by Dorset Coast Forum in consultation the Project Steering Group who meet on a regular basis to discuss updates, feed into the design plans and assist with decision making. The members are Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset Council, Weymouth Town Council, Weymouth BID, Community Safety Team, Public Health Dorset, South Western Railway, Weymouth Area Development Trust, First Wessex Buses, Local Melcombe Regis Councillors who are regularly updated with progress and are able to feedback to their local communities. In addition, we are working closely with key stakeholders Network Rail, WSP Design Consultants, Hanson Contracting, Dorset Police, British Transport Police and Weymouth Taxis Station Association.

## **Consultation**

A range of consultation exercises have been carried out in summer 2020 by the Dorset Coast Forum with responses fed into the design of the area. The key findings from the engagement revealed most respondents thought the station was currently in a poor condition but nearly all respondents still used the station area. The overwhelming desire is to transform the train station forecourt into a welcoming, attractive and safer area with more greenery and planters. There is also the desire to prioritise pedestrian movement, redesign the flow of traffic in the forecourt and ensure the provision of sustainable transport links for people using buses and cyclists. The provision of better information and wayfinding was a key message. The use of public art, heritage and culture to represent the town was another clear outcome from the responses.

## The new design



Within the design, healthy trees are being retained, some are to be removed due to being dead or salt damaged and an additional 10 new trees planted. The planting of additional trees and other greenery is designed to be aesthetically pleasing, offer shade, reduce carbon and increase the permeable areas within the scheme to mitigate the risk of flooding.

Anti-Social behaviour has been considered in the design to improve the current status of the site. The Dorset Coast Forum (lead of the project) has consulted extensively with the Project Steering Group, South Western Railway, Community Safety Team, the British Transport Police and Dorset Police to look at design improvements to help deter anti-social behaviour. The design addresses anti-social behaviour by having:

- An enhanced pedestrian area which is a more welcoming and open environment that will help reduce concealment making it less likely for anti-social behaviour
- A busier integrated transport hub that should attract more people to use the space for the right reasons and less likely for undesirable behaviour to congregate
- A cleaner attractive and more contemporary design should make people feel safer and more likely to use the area and deterring street drinkers
- The car park wall reduced in height to expose any hidden areas, reduce concealment and create greater visibility
- Better lighting to address night-time usage and safety concerns

- Removal of some of the trees that currently obstruct the CCTV in the area. The trees to be removed will enable increased CCTV coverage to monitor any anti-social behaviour problem which is currently an issue at the site

New bus stops within forecourt and on King Street will bring up to four services there in the summer months, ones which are most likely to be used as a connection from rail services. Bringing more buses to the station would need a radical change to the layout of the junction of King Street and Esplanade including allowing right turns for buses towards Kings Statue.

Also, there is insufficient space to turn and park more buses at the station without additional land being available, even if all car parking spaces were transferred to the current overflow car park. The project is seen as a Phase 1 of improvements at the station which could include more buses in the future if achievable through a masterplan approach.

### **Timescale**

The capital delivery element of the project is due to start at the end of September 2021 with a completion date by March 2022. The capital project delivery will be led by the Dorset Council Highways team with the Dorset Coast Forum team working on the wider aspects such as managing the steering group, communications, station change consents BAPA, landlords consents, planning, interpretation and dealing with the funding.

### **Funding**

The total cost of the project is expected to be £997,096. There is confirmed match funding of £587,000. There is a funding shortfall of £410,096

There are currently two options being considered to ensure this project is delivered:

- Option 1 – the design has been valued engineered to look again at materials and some design aspects so that costs can be reduced.
- Option 2 – An application bid of £410,000 has been submitted to several funding pots to make up the deficit. The outcome for one is End of August and the other is due in Autumn 2021.

The capital delivery element of the project will not proceed if the funding shortfall is not confirmed therefore limiting any risk to Dorset Council.

### **More information**

<https://www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/weymouth-gateway>

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