

Bishopthorpe@Crossroads

Resident Comments and Notes from the meeting of the Design Competition Judging Panel

5 February 2005

Resident Comments

In total, 14 invited village residents viewed the 3 entries to the Bishopthorpe@crossroads design competition. These villagers were encouraged to comment on what they liked about the 3 designs. The following comments were made:

Design 1

- Realigned junction (paved)
- Raised paved area
- Change of road surface
- Making Copmanthorpe Lane one way (2 comments)
- Agree with the one way system at Copmanthorpe Lane, but allow bikes both ways
- The planting will greatly beautify the area
- Not keen on car parking outside shops (chevrons) – more trouble for cyclists

Design 2

- Sensory garden and overall use of planting (2 comments)
- Sensory garden looks excellent (2 comments)
- Play area good – but not sure about pumping station!
- Softening library area with shrubs etc – still needs demolishing!
- It includes pinfold development
- Like idea about tree on roundabout but impractical
- Roundabout good if maintained and room
- Tree roundabout
- Tree roundabout – but should be bigger/impractical (3 comments)
- Lush planting and screening of eyesores and realistic treatment of library area – ie inexpensive
- Don't like planting in front of shops, 'masks burglaries'.
- Great to improve frontage of No1 Main St.

Design 3

- Redevelopment of library to old school site/redeveloping for community use (8 comments)
- Use of surface on road to change perception (why not same surface as footways?)
- Change of road surface (2 comments)

- Design includes developing pinfold
- Planting of trees
- Introduction of colour by tree planting
- Changing road surfaces, bicycle parking outside shops, softening of whole area with consideration to be given to visibility for drivers and pedestrians
- Don't like the fact that road area has not been reduced.
- Plenty of bicycle parking
- Don't like shrubs in front of shops but definitely plant up round No1 Main St.
- Allow proper views for traffic run up

In addition:

- At least 2 villagers commented that cyclists were not provided for in any scheme (apart from bicycle parking)
- Various villagers discussed the possibility of removing all traffic signs, thus forcing traffic to slow down near the junction – using a model that is apparently being adopted in parts of Europe and America.

Design Competition Panel Discussion

Present: Sir Donald Barron (Chair)
 Richard Parkin (Adviser)
 Jo Bewley (Co-ordinator)
 June Whittaker
 Jane Cross
 Ben Wallace
 Fred Weatherley
 Louise Bishop
 Kate Hardy

Apologies Andrew Lister

Main themes of the 3 designs

Richard Parkin summarised the main themes of the 3 designs:

Common to each design was more greenery. Richard was asked by the panel whether any of those who had entered the competition had highways expertise. Richard believed that expert advice would have to be sought from the highways department on some of these proposals. None of the schemes appeared to analyse traffic/pedestrian flows through this area.

Design 1 Village green type area
 Changing flow of traffic, with roads crossing the green

Bringing parking in front of the shops, not on road as present

- Design 2 Principle focus was the island in the centre of the road
Pushed back boundaries of the concreted areas
Sensory garden at the back of the library
- Design 3 Changing surface material of the roads
Pedestrian crossings defined
Idea of improving the area outside of the library
Village information point
A suggestion that a library is incorporated into a new community area

Comments from the panel

Each panellist was invited to comment on the three designs. The following comments were given:

Overall:

- It needs to be emphasised how the area is mainly used by through traffic – whether in car, on bicycle or on foot
- Seats are useful though, despite it being a transitory area
- Traffic flow is the chief concern and therefore whatever scheme is chosen should be able to ease traffic flow and ease crossing of roads by pedestrians
- Have any of the designs resolved the issue of how to maintain villager's safety or difficulties in parking?
- 1 Main Street could be the easiest area to improve – with greenery
- Planting would need to be vandal proof, especially round the library (although there was a feeling that the village should still do things, even if there is a potential for vandalism. A panellist also questioned the potential for vandalism)
- Greenery should be used to screen some of the buildings, but should be used prudently so as not to compromise safety or reduce sight lines. Grass may be impractical.
- How near can developments be made to the pumping station?
- Can the bus route be reversed so there is a bus stop outside the library?

Design 1:

- Idea of a village green area good (although a comment was made that it could be too small, bitty and difficult to maintain)
- Positive benefits of changing flow of traffic, although concerns may be/are likely to be raised by Copmanthorpe Lane residents
- Could the one way system be used only at certain times of the day? (eg school times)
- Increased car parking a good idea

- Raised road a good idea as it covered the whole of the crossing area

Design 2:

- The island in the middle of Design 1 was not practical
- Parking behind the library more practical than a sensory area?
- Could the sensory area be placed where the old school is, with low walling?
- Will need a lot of maintenance
- Pinfold area good – and good to have more seating

Design 3:

- Relocation of library too ambitious?
- Good idea to move the library – but difficult to do in practice with all the various parties involved.
- Like how the community centre could be developed – somewhere where the young people could go, especially if there was a café
- Bus stop outside the library a good idea
- Bicycle parking a good idea
- Pedestrian areas work well

Panel preferences for design (when commented)

- Mixture of 1 and 3
- Design 1 (2 panellists)
- Like overall design, but using ideas of how to develop the various corners of the area from other areas
e.g. pinfold from No 2
Library area from No 3
- Design 1, although not really addressing the needs of all villagers.

Summary

Minimum requirements from scheme:

- Has to improve 'traffic' flow
- Has to maintain – and ideally improve – safety
- Needs to consider pedestrians and cyclists
- Be easy to maintain (greenery)
- Maintain sight lines
- Needs to consider the consequences on other areas of the villagers for whatever changes are introduced (e.g. impact in changes in traffic flow)

Recommendation

Entrants were thanked for their submissions. It was agreed that all 3 designs had their good points and all had contributed to the afternoon's discussions.

The panel made the following recommendation to the Bishopthorpe Millennium Trust:

- Design 1 to be used as the basis of the road design.
- Some elements of Design 3 should be incorporated into this basic design
- Pinfold design, and the sensory garden are elements of Design 2 that should be incorporated into the overall design.
- A review of traffic usage within this crossroads area would be beneficial.
- Advice from the highways department would be essential before any scheme is developed further.
- In the long term consider the development of a community centre for the village.