

Darlaston LNP

24 July, 2006

Purpose

To inform Darlaston LNP on the progress on the Walsall Strategic Corridors and Gateways Initiative – A454 and A461 Urban Design Framework.

Background

The Walsall Strategic Corridors and Gateways Regeneration Initiative was approved at Cabinet in February 2005. Priority Corridors were agreed as being the A454 and A461 at Cabinet in June 2005.

The A454 runs along The Keyway and Black Country Route to Junction 10 of the M6 Motorway, along Wolverhampton Road to the junction with Pleck Road, the route runs along the Ring Road to the Arboretum junction then up to the Mellish Church Roundabout, along Mellish Road and out to Aldridge.

The A461 runs from Junction 9 of the M6 Motorway along Bescot Road the route runs along Pleck Road up to the junction with Wolverhampton Road. The A461 then continues along Lichfield Road through Rushall, Shelfield and Walsall Wood to the Shire Oak Junction.

The A454 and A461 road corridors represent perhaps the most interesting of Walsall's arterial routes. They are both major transportation corridors that cross through the whole Borough and are key gateways into Walsall.

The purpose of the Strategic Corridors and Gateways Initiative is to remedy the sense of environmental, social and economic decline by creating a framework for the future regeneration of both road corridors.

Urban Design and Transport consultants Colin Buchanan were appointed in November 2005 to prepare a regeneration framework for the two road corridors.

Colin Buchanan have prepared a Draft Urban Design Framework which proposes 40 initial projects along the entire road corridors of different sizes, types and scales. The 40 projects include environmental improvement schemes, development proposals, lighting projects, management, promotion and maintenance proposals.

Schemes / Projects in the LNP area

4 projects are proposed for the Darlaston LNP area, details of which will be presented at the meeting.

Consultation

A number of consultation exercises have informed the development of the projects including:

- Surveys of business owners along the road corridors,

- Surveys of users of the road corridors
- Stakeholder and public bus tours of the routes followed by workshops to discuss the opportunities.

The Draft by Colin Buchanan is currently being circulated around all relevant departments in the Council, including Housing, Economic Regeneration and Transport and to relevant organisations including Walsall Housing Group, and Walsall Regeneration Company.

Community Consultation events on the draft proposals are planned for the district centres and town centre. These are planned for the district centres in early August although dates and venues are yet to be confirmed and the town centre consultation would be held towards the end of August. All community consultation details will be forwarded to the LNP officer to circulate to LNP Members and the consultation details will be advertised in the local press.

The views and feedback from all of these consultations will inform the final report which will be going to Cabinet for consideration in October 2006. Cabinet will be asked to approve the Final Urban Design Framework for the road corridors and to authorise officers to prepare necessary statutory documentation to enable the implementation of the projects.

Due to the variety of projects proposed this will not be the final stage of public consultation / involvement. Further consultation will happen when the projects are worked up into more detail to form planning applications or environmental improvement schemes

Timescale for Implementation

The draft report sets out the 40 projects in a Gantt chart which indicates consultation stages, development and implementation.

Following the completion of the consultation stage and the production of a final urban design framework in October 2006 work will commence to develop the proposals for implementation.

Contact Details

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