

Progress of work with Clifton's Retail Areas.

Update note for Area 8 Committee – 10 February 2016

Mark Armstrong, Town Centre Co-ordinator

Street Furniture

The retail areas of Varney Road, Central shops, Holy Trinity and Bransdale Road have all been surveyed and provisionally marked out for appropriate locations for the installation of the following new street furniture.

- Litter bins
- Cycle stands
- Benches
- Bollards

Following verbal consultation with a number of businesses at Holy Trinity and Bransdale Road shopping parades there was a strong opinion expressed against installing benches. It was felt the benches would encourage the congregation of large groups of youths and result in an increase in anti-social behaviour. Seeking appropriate locations for new benches away from the retail areas in open spaces along the popular walking routes was seen as more favourable, whilst promoting businesses to participate in the Take A Seat campaign. It was felt these areas away from the shops would not be attractive to youths but would provide a resting place for people on their way to and from the shops. Benches are proposed to be installed at Central and Varney Road shops.

Accurate plans of the new paved area are being drafted so the proposed locations for the street furniture can be plotted. Once the plans are completed they will be submitted for a road safety audit and upon approval the works can be programmed in to start.

The aim is to start work on the installation by the of March 2016.

Development Opportunity Site

Discussions are on-going with a variety of landowners and potential develops on a range of underutilised sites across the Clifton area. The discussions are at the very early stages and are trying to establish what future use is viable for the site/s whilst also adding value and character to the local area. The details of the discussions are commercial sensitive at the moment. The aim is to bring more jobs opportunities to the area for local people.

Clifton Library

There are on-going discussion which are considering a range of options to find the most appropriate use to bring the vacant former college space at the front of the library back in to full use. This is an important opportunity site that could introduce a new and vibrant use in the district centre within the short term that would also benefit the library.

Events and Promotion

Work is being progress with partners on exploring a range of events and promotions around the central shopping parade. Work is also being done to see if other sites could be used to help facilitate events and entertainment.

The aim is to provide entertainment for local people, attract new shoppers and visitors in to the area and make the shops more viable but also to help raise the profile of local area. One of the objectives is also to get more people to use the NET park and ride facility and whilst in the area visit the local shops and businesses.

Vacant Shops

Clifton's main retail centres are currently performing very well with very few vacant units. Central shops has no empty shop units currently.

Holy Trinity shopping parade has a longer term large vacant unit and Nottingham City Council has established an on-going dialogue with HEB the appointed letting agents who advise the unit is currently 'under offer'. HEB should be in a position to make an announcement very short about who the new businesses tenants are going to be. Once this deal is completed this parade of shops will also be fully let.