

Area 8 Committee

Update on Projects from the Action Plan for Clifton - District Retail Centres

Wednesday 14 September 2016

Current Progress/Update

1. Clifton Library

We are currently working with Central College Nottingham and Nottingham City Councils Library Services to commercialise the currently vacant front part of the library building. Awaiting approval from the Skills Funding Agency to confirm the college can surrender the remainder of their lease back to Nottingham City Council. As soon as this is approved works can commence on options for bringing this back in to use and creating an attraction for this part of the district retail centre.

2. Tree Pits

The current tree pits on both sides of Southchurch Drive at the central shopping parade are oversized and filled with a loose crushed concrete material that is unsightly. Works have been ordered to reduce them down in size where appropriate by placing in extra paving slabs along the edges. This will require the complete removal of the current material which will be followed by the installation of a bespoke manufactured metal frames for each tree pit which is then filled with a water permeable resin bonded gravel. This will provide a hard surface for walking on whilst also allowing the trees to gather rainwater.

During the survey for these works it was identified that eighteen (18) large trees are recommended for replacement as they have been damaged over the years and now slowly dying. Many will be completely dead within the next three years therefore it was recommended replacement is done prior to the works to the tree pits as the root bulb will need to be drilled out to make room for a replacement tree.

The key period for tree replacement planting is September / October to give the highest chance of survival. All of the new trees will be fitted with a metal protective tree guard to avoid future impact damage.

The works to the tree pits will follow the planting of the replacement trees.

All works have been ordered and currently being programmed in for installation.

3. Street Furniture

Permission has now been given by Taylor Woodrow Alstom (TWA) for works to start for the installation of the seating benches, litter bins, cycle racks and traffic bollards as the area is still under their control. The locations have all been marked out and are ready to commence. We are currently negotiating a priority installation date for the furniture to go in at the four main retail areas; Central shops, Varney Road, Holy Trinity and Bransdale Road / Summerwood Lane parade of shops.

4. LGF3 Funding Bid

A joint funding bid with other Nottinghamshire Councils has been submitted to create a funding package of LGF, Council and private sector match funding to upgrade to façade of the main shopping parade. No decision has been made by the funding provider which is the D2N2 LEP (Local Economic Partnership) on this application.

5. Central Shops

Central shops are currently fully occupied with no vacant units. Plans are being finalised for physical improvements to the alley connecting Southchurch Drive and the service road leading to Morrisons. Improved surfaces, better lighting and a more pedestrian friendly crossing are being drawn up with an installation date proposed for after the Christmas trading period in early 2017.

Discussions have started with the Nottingham City Markets Team on ways in which the market the busy and vibrant market offer can be improved.

6. Holy Trinity Shops

Co-op Supermarket now granted planning permission. There is currently no date published for when the store will open.

7. Varney Road Shops

A clean-up day of action at the rear of shops was completed in early June which has made a significant difference to the area as it was a fly-tipping hot spot. It has remained tidy and fly-tipping has since stopped.

Further actions are to be taken to prevent the return of the problems but need permission of the tenants and leaseholders to be able to action. Discussions are on-going.

8. Clifton Drive-in Cinema Event

The event is being delivered in partnership with TramNet Nottingham and Smooth Radio. It has created a substantial amount of positive publicity for Clifton. There have been posters promoting the event all along the tram network on both routes.

9. Fairham House Development Site, Green Lane

The remainder of the lease has now been purchased by the developer Cedar House Investments who have recently successfully completed similar developments in the Nottingham area. This proposed development will increase the retail mix and offer in Clifton and provide a retail corridor along Green Lane.

It should also attract shoppers from a wider area which will create jobs and also make the other retail business and service providers in the vicinity more viable and successful.

It will bring this longstanding vacant site back in to use. Strongly encourage local people to participate in any consultation events held by the developers and/or their appointed consultants, to also have a look at their website at www.wyg.com/clifton at their latest plans for comment and also to comment on the planning application when it is submitted to Nottingham City Council.

Mark Armstrong

Town Centre Co-ordinator, Nottingham City Council