



BUCKINGHAM

YOUR TOWN CENTRE

Introduction

The busy town centre of Buckingham has a treasure trove of old buildings. But modern cars and lorries are taking their toll. More can be done to conserve the town's heritage and make life better for those on foot who want to shop or merely wander amongst the historic buildings in pleasant places – this leaflet describes what can be done.

Background

The heart and soul of Buckingham is to be found in its historic centre. Outstanding in quality, the Conservation Area includes the increasingly busy commercial area based upon Market Hill and Market Square. Public and private sector initiatives both have made a large contribution to the upturn in fortune of the town centre. These include refurbishment of the Old Gaol and the Town Hall, new paving along the Chewar and between the Old Gaol and the Bull Ring, and the refurbishment of old buildings. Together with sensitive new development, they have all helped bring the town centre into the 1990's while retaining Buckingham's historic heritage.

The Scheme

There remain, however, problems which require a comprehensive approach: too much traffic; too much tarmacadam; too narrow pavements; and too little thought for pedestrian/shopper safety and comfort. The District and County Councils are together proposing a major environmental improvement of that part of the town centre between the Town Hall and North End Square. It will not only enhance the finer features of this historic area, but provide an attractive, safe and cleaner town centre, both for local people and its many visitors.

While it is necessary to still allow for through traffic, the environmental improvement scheme would go a long way towards redressing the balance between the motor car and pedestrian. By giving space back to pedestrians roads will be easier to cross and motorists alerted that they are entering a shopping area. Shopping will be improved and more shoppers means better shopping in Buckingham.

No further meaningful environmental improvement is possible without some reduction in car spaces. Each phase will need to be considered together with the availability of other car parking to compensate for that lost in the town centre

The scheme has been designed to enhance and protect the historical heritage of the town centre and includes the use of attractive surface treatments and sensitive signing and lighting.

This is a big scheme which in today's financial climate is unlikely to be implemented in one go. Because of this, it will be designed so that parts can be implemented without harm to the overall proposals. The District Council would like your support for the idea of improving Buckingham town centre in this way and, importantly, to secure funding for its implementation. Just imagine what a partnership of District Council, County Council, Town Council, local business, local people and organisations could achieve.