



Front Street Phase 2 Engagement

Joint Ward Committee Meeting 28th February 2024

Funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

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UP**



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UK Government



Agenda

- **Background to Phase 1**

- Delivered scheme - lessons learned & way forward

- **Phase 2**

- Insight, aims, process/timeline working with community
- 4 key elements
 - Enhancing the high street
 - Creating more accessible destination
 - Extending the benefits beyond the high street
 - Longer term aspirations

- **Next steps, Community Involvement & Questions**

Background to Phase 1

- UK Shared Prosperity Funding - specific with strict guidelines on spending deadlines (otherwise clawed back by central government). Dec 2022 allocated £395k
- Desire to enhance Acomb's economic growth
- Uneven paving and illegal parking on pavements
- Land ownership
- Maintenance/ ongoing repairs
- Future of Acomb Front Street Study 2021 – emerging ideas for next 10-15yrs

The Future of Front Street Study

- Comprehensive analysis carried out, with vision outlined
- April 22 Executive noted study but not formally adopted

The best things about Front Street

- Community feel
- Convenient and varied shopping
- Free nearby parking
- Few cars in precinct

The worst things about Front Street

- Rundown appearance
- Don't feel safe
- Pavement uneven, in bad condition
- Problems with illegal parking
- Not enough variety of shops

Things that would improve Front Street

- More planting
- More events and activities
- Better/ more parking
- Improve street appearance
- Improve / repair pavement
- More variety of shops
- More independent businesses

Uneven paving and illegal parking

- Well recognised issues with uneven paving and illegal parking on pavements
- Regular maintenance repairs/ replacement on existing bollards following damage by cars
- **Phase 1** - Repave adopted highway only and replace the bollards to tackle the illegal parking and protect new paving



Delivered in phase 1



Accessible seating trial



Tactile crossing points



Cycle racks



Repaired pavements



Bollards to tackle illegal parking, which are being reviewed in phase 2

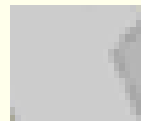


Land ownership

- Council requires permission from landowners to carry out work in privately maintained, non-adopted highway
- **Phase 1** work carried out with adopted highway only



Adopted highway



Privately maintained, non-adopted highway



The Future of Acomb Front Street Study

- 2020 Council commissioned an urban design team to develop a community brief and 10-15 year vision for the area
- 10 emerging ideas, reflected in phase 2
- Highways improvement scheme delivered did not meet community expectation
- Lack of clarity and explanation from council on study; long-term vision, viability, feasibility and future work

Phase 2 is all about listening to and working with community to deliver best scheme for community



Lessons learned

- Clear explanation - community engagement with outline of what is proposed and why
- Share draft regeneration plans to develop with community, acknowledge/recognise this is not highway scheme with final plans & construction starting in 1- 2 weeks
- Bring in external urban design expertise
- Listen, review, prioritise, reassess and modify. Share.

Way forward

- Phase 2 is shaped by previous experience, community petition, listening to stakeholder groups, external urban designers challenge and expertise
- Scheme should be impactful
- Recognise this is just the **start of work**, UKSPF can't deliver everything now but has placemaking, community and FOFS Study at its core.

Insight

The best things about Front Street

- Community feel
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- Free nearby parking
- Few cars in precinct

The worst things about Front Street

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Source: Consultation in 2020 received over 1,200 responses

Things that would improve Front Street

- More planting
- More events and activities
- Better/ more parking
- Improve street appearance
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- More variety of shops
- More independent businesses

Analysis of the 2023 petition responses further emphasised that people wanted:

- removal of bollards
- trees and planters
- level pavement
- more seating, sit and chat
- welcoming, accessible & inviting space
- beautiful, colourful space
- street designed for people, not cars
- open up community space
- less street clutter

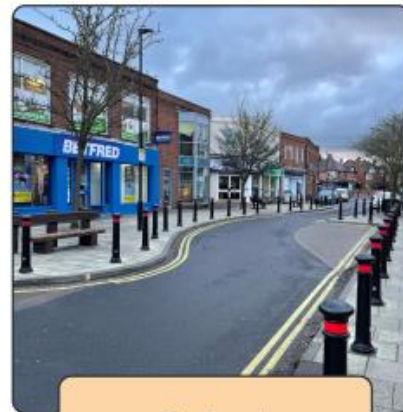
Build on this through open public engagement sessions until 24 March 2024

Phase 2 – Aims

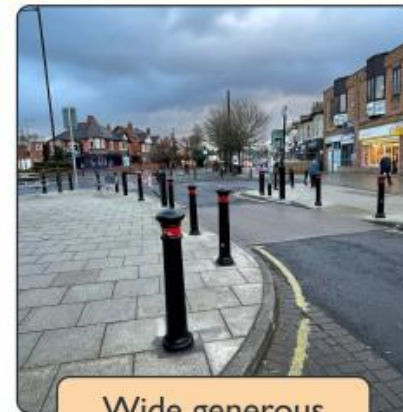
- Improve public realm and placemaking - create a more family friendly and accessible destination
- Maximise impact on arrival
- Improve pedestrian character and reduce dominance of the road/ vehicles
- Improve the visitor experience and promote businesses
- Define a welcome space and central space within shopping area to create start for future ideas and phases to further develop in future
- Explore possibilities for more significant change e.g. pedestrianisation
- Work with community



Declutter



Bollards



Wide generous crossing for people



Misuse of blue badge parking

Process/ Timeline

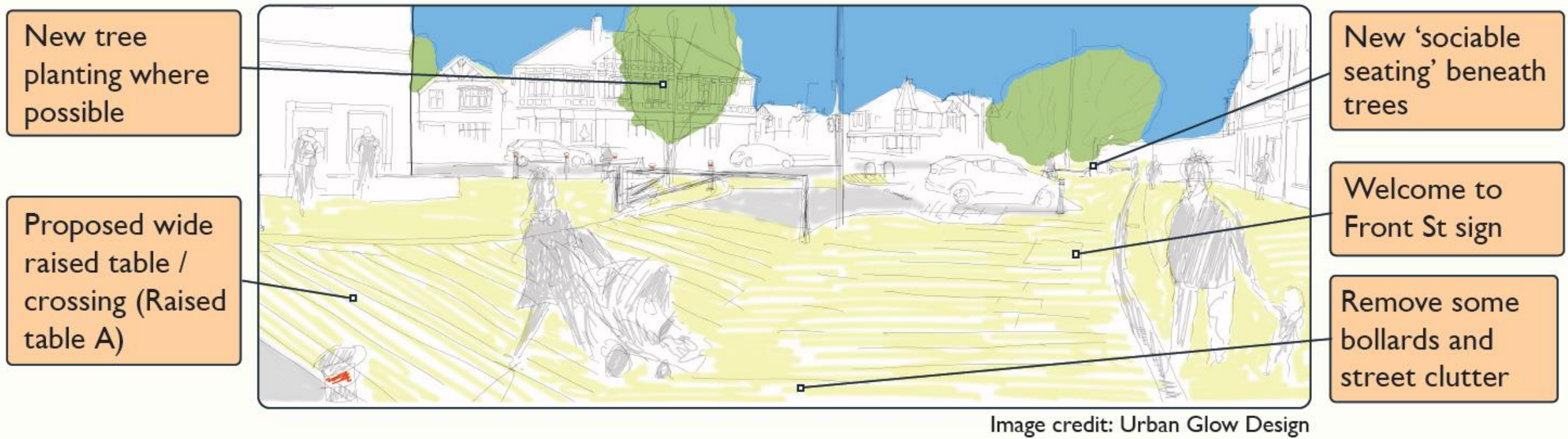
Date	Timeline
Oct 2023	£570,000 additional UK Shared Prosperity Funding agreed by council's Executive
Feb 2024	Executive decision commence public engagement Phase 2
March 2024	Public engagement
April- June 2024	Analyse feedback & use to develop detailed designs & costs
Summer 2024	Share final design/proposal with community ward committee Formal decision required by council Executive to agree final scheme and costings & approve commencement to deliver scheme
Autumn 2024 – Spring 2025	Work takes place to deliver improvements to the area. These must be completed by UKSPF deadline March 25

We are engaging on four key elements

1. Enhancing the high street
2. Creating a more accessible destination
3. Extending the benefits beyond the high street
4. Longer term aspirations

1. Enhancing the high street

- **Welcome Gateway** – welcoming, inviting & sense of arrival



Welcome Gateway

- Place to visit with new pedestrian focused features

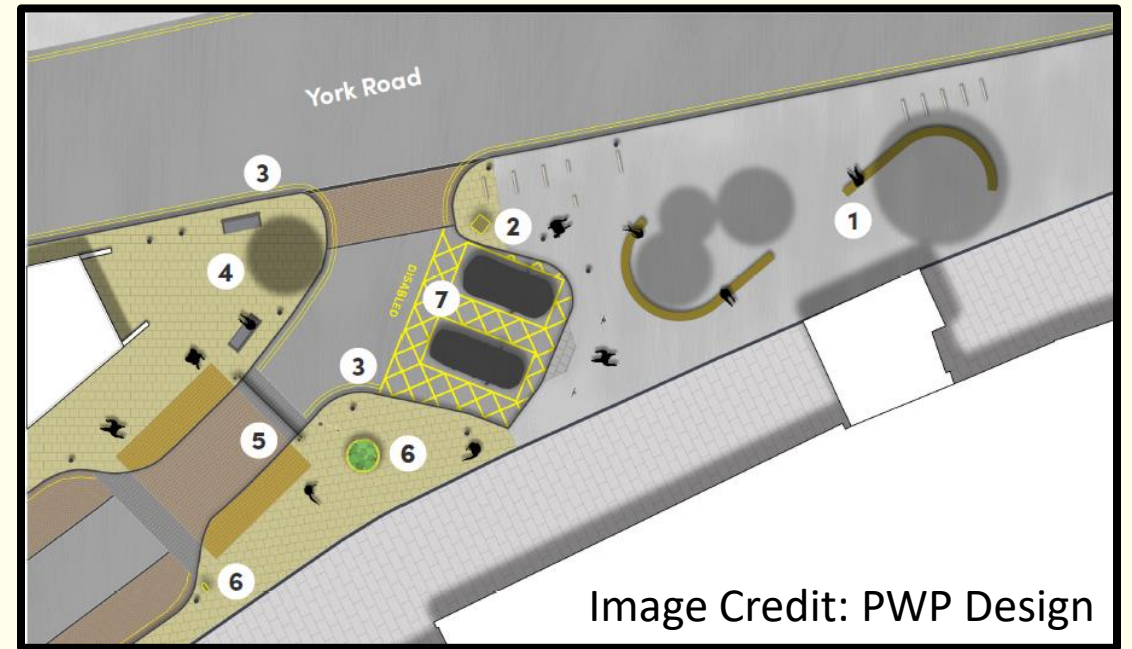
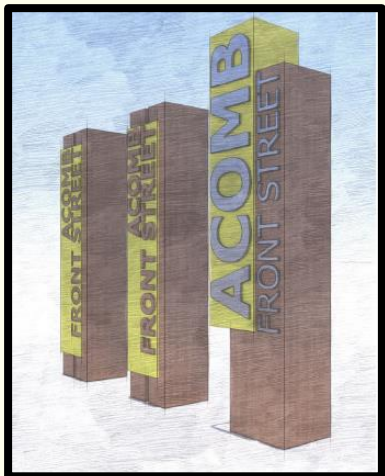


Image Credit: PWP Design

1. Replace bench with sculptural social seating
2. Retain cycle parking, new gateway sign
3. Reduce clutter, bollards
4. Retain new accessible seating, plant tree and green welcome space
5. Wide, flush pedestrian crossing
6. New features – more greenery and wayfinding
7. Improve blue badge parking

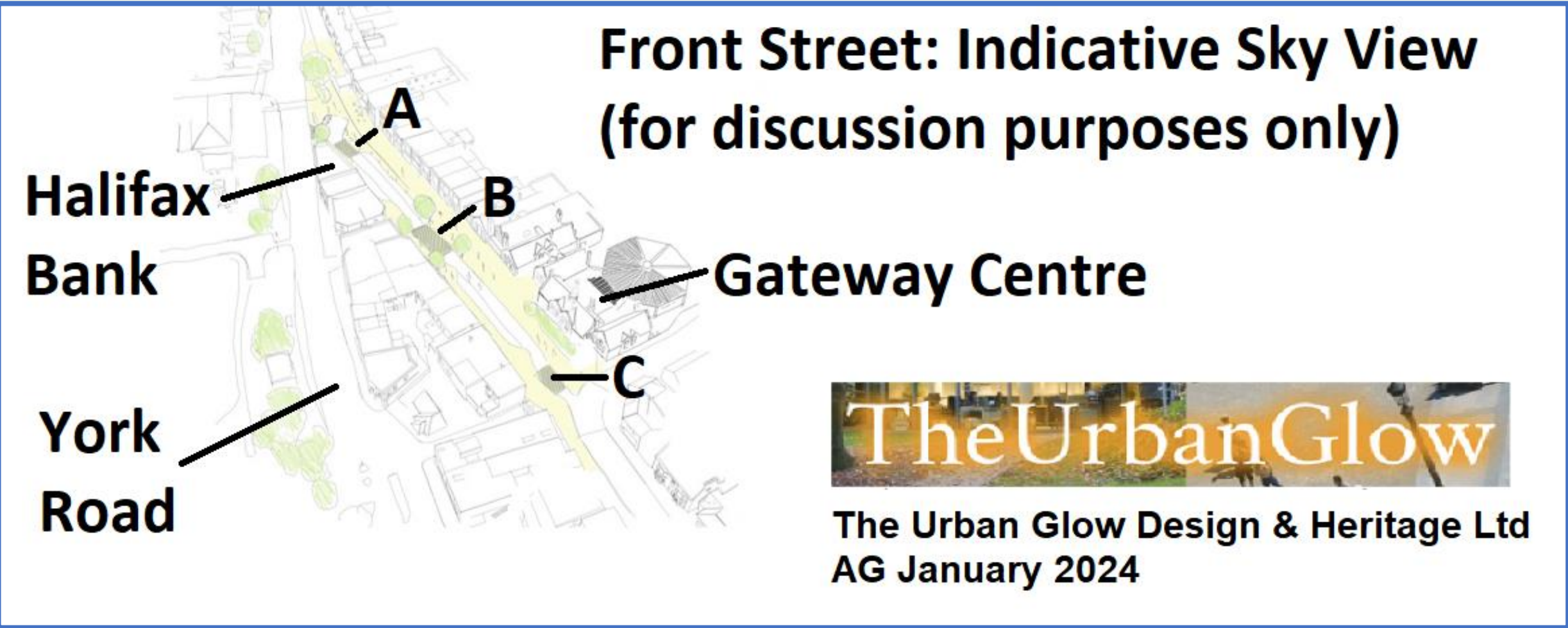
Central Space

- Wider raised crossing to create a more people “central space” and improve accessibility



Image credit: Urban Glow Design

More people friendly space – wide flush crossings



**Front Street: Indicative Sky View
(for discussion purposes only)**

**Halifax
Bank**

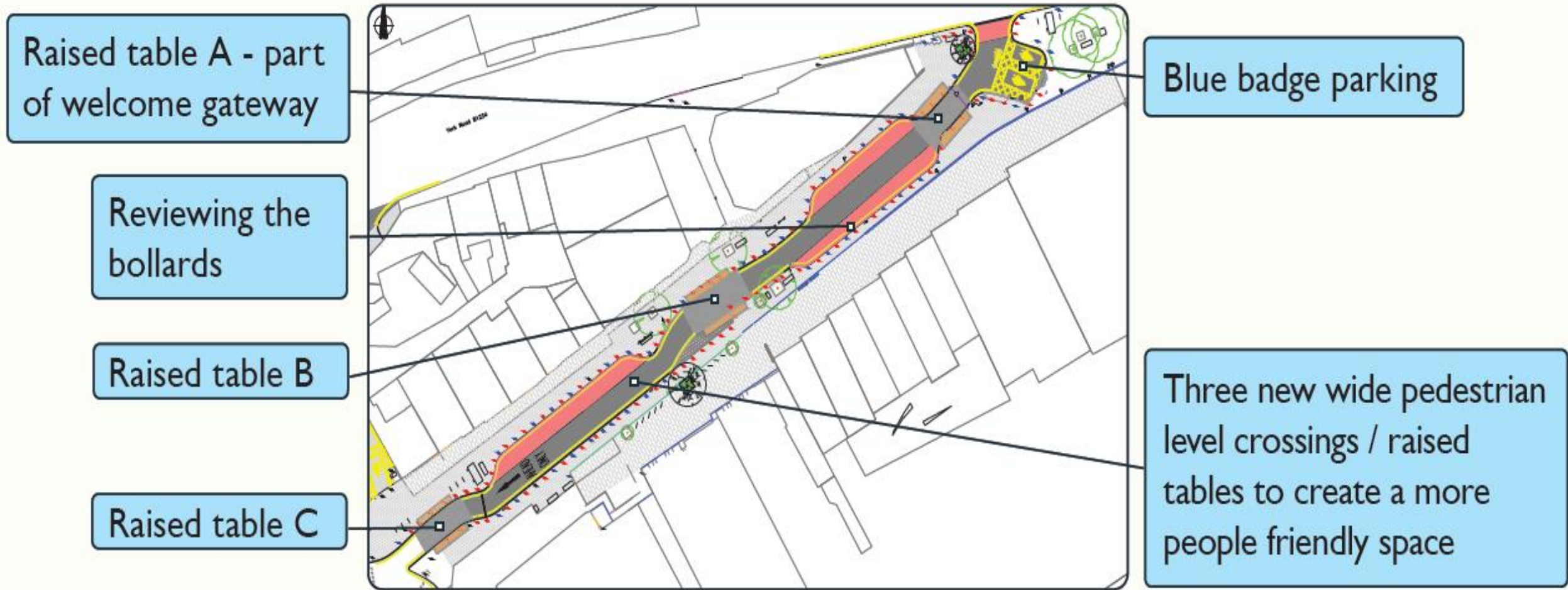
**York
Road**

Gateway Centre



**The Urban Glow Design & Heritage Ltd
AG January 2024**

Front Street – more people friendly space



Imminent high street activity

- **Market**
- Operator approached council
- 3 - month trial
- 16 March, 20 April, 18 May
- 10.00am - 3.00pm

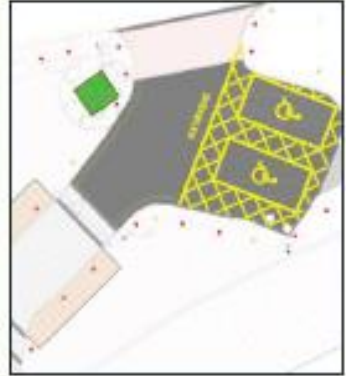


- **Toilet upgrade**
- Repairs required
- 2 Accessible unisex units
- Baby changing tables in each
- Completed by end June 24



2. Creating a more accessible destination

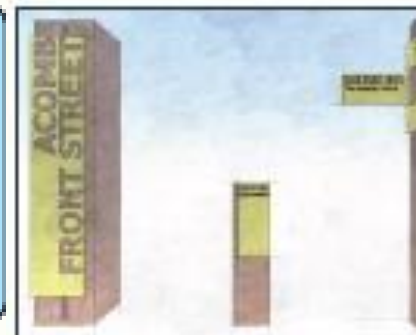
- Current blue badge parking does not meet accessibility standards and frequently misused
- Ideas for accessible spaces
 - 2 near Halifax Bank (from 3 non - accessible spaces)
 - 1 at Cross Street (from 2 non - accessible spaces) and 2 new marked blue badge spaces at York Road
 - 1 at School Street (from 2 non - accessible spaces)
 - **6 accessible BB spaces to replace 7 non-compliant**
- Work to resurface Cross Street to provide wider pedestrian and cycle route
- Aim to deliver compliant parking bays to Part M Building Regulations (subject to Road Safety Audit or physical restrictions)



3. Extending the benefits beyond the high street

3A) Wayfinding signs

New signs to help connect amenities, such as the park/ green, toilets and library



3B) Public art/ identity

Promote Acomb's offer as a whole, and as a family friendly destination, by creating an identity for Acomb. This could include public art such as a small wall mural.



3C) New crossing and seating

New crossing near to Morrisons junction and additional seating in the area to improve the pedestrian experience.



Use of the Road

Front Street shopping area currently has ‘two lives’ depending on the day/ time

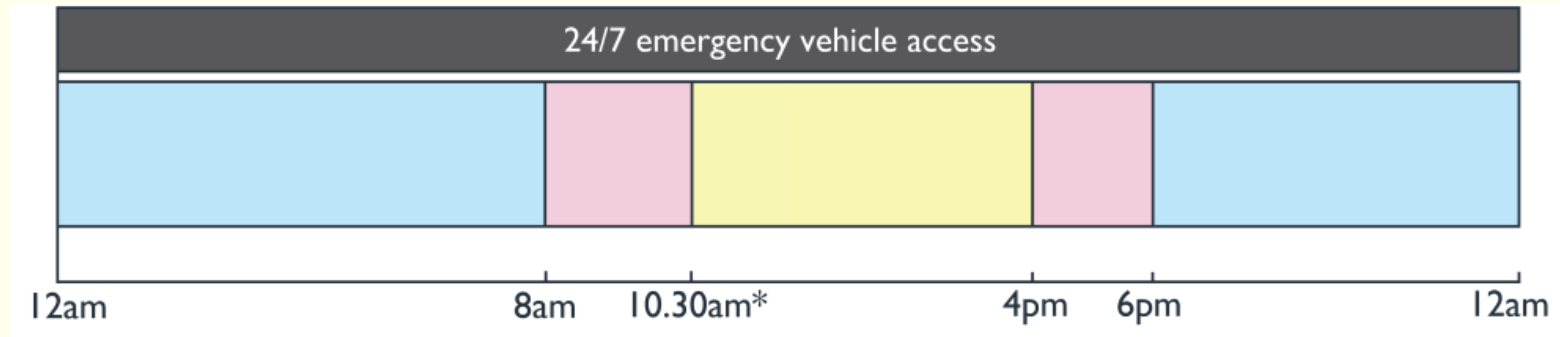
- a pedestrianised space when the gate is shut and
- a street with vehicles running through when the gate is open



Use of the Road

Phase 2 does not propose any fundamental change to arrangements – explore what longer term changes could look like

- **Feasibility study** to look at vehicle dominance/ traffic impacts can be further reduced



Time of day	How can I use the road within the high street?						
	Pedestrian	Emergency Access	Loading/unloading	Blue badge parking	Cycling	All vehicles - drive through	All vehicles - parking
24 hour timeline							
Morning 8-10:30am (Mon-Fri)* 8-9:30am (Sat)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Day 10:30am-4pm (Mon-Fri) 9:30-4pm (Sat)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Afternoon 4-6pm (Mon-Sat)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Night 6pm-8am	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sunday	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

4. Long term aspirations (subject to fundings and approvals)

4A) Street with priority for people

You said: Create a more people friendly space.

Proposal: Create a street with more priority for people. Any further long term proposals would be subject to the outcome of the Phase 2 feasibility study, significant engagement with businesses, and further funding.

4B) Adopt privately owned land

You said: Open up community space

Proposal: A substantial part of the shopping area is privately owned non-adopted highway. The council could explore adopting the area which would enable the community to use the space in a more permanent way following the pop-up trial **(1C)**. For the council to adopt this space it must be brought up to a satisfactory standard.

4C) Improve connection to Explore library

You said: Better connect the high street with older village/ Explore

Proposal: Forge stronger pedestrian links between shopping area and library, such as additional crossing points and more pedestrian priority.

1A Welcome Gateway

You said: More welcoming / inviting space

Proposal: Create a welcoming arrival space, more seating, planting, sign to mark precinct entrance

Cost estimate: £40,000

1B Review bollards / protect pavement

You said: Less street clutter, remove the bollards and tackle illegal parking

Proposal: Remove any unnecessary bollards, move some street furniture to pavement edge

Cost estimate: £40,000

1C Pop-up

You said: Open up community space, more seating and places to sit and chat

Proposal: Work with landowners on a 'pop-up' (e.g. fun furniture or planters) to activate the privately owned area and test use as a community space

Cost estimate: £30,000

1D Future use of the road

You said: Street designed for people, not cars

Proposal: Feasibility study on how to reduce vehicle dominance in shopping area / explore opportunities for a more people friendly space.

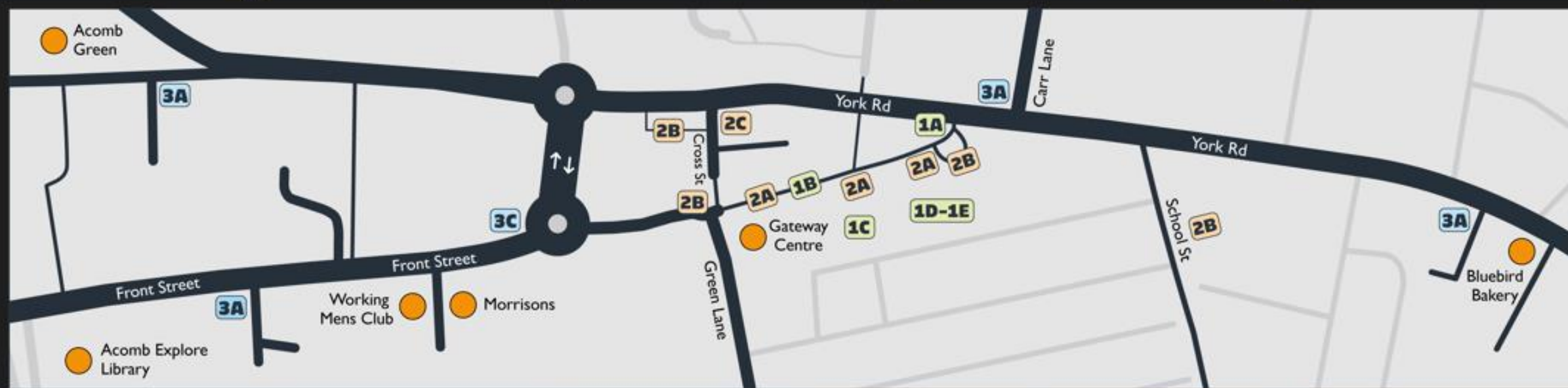
Cost estimate: £5,000

1E Market / Activities

You said: Bring back the market

Proposal: Three month trial with a new market operator starts 16th March

Cost agreed: £750 permit to enable trial



2A More level crossing space

You said: Accessible space, level pavement

Proposal: Three wide raised tables to create more level crossing space for all users, and create more people friendly feel within the precinct

Cost estimate: £150,000

2B Improve blue badge parking

You said: Misuse of blue badge parking

Proposal: Create accessible blue badge parking spaces at Cross Street, School Street and the top of Front Street (opposite Halifax).

Cost estimate: £110,000

2C Cross Street toilets

You said: Better toilets

Proposal: Upgrade existing tired toilet block to provide two accessible units.

Cost agreed: £42,500

3A Wayfinding signage

You said: Lack of signposting, link to facilities outside of the precinct too

Proposal: Wayfinding signage strategy to better connect amenities

Cost estimate: £30,000

3B Public art / identity

You said: A more cohesive identity and colourful space

Proposal: A unified place (colour/ material palette), public art (small mural or art trail)

Cost estimate: £10,000

3C New crossing and seating

You said: Traffic cuts precinct area off from older Front Street, create linkages, more seating, better connect precinct with older village/ Explore

Proposal: Introduce a new pedestrian crossing and seating near to Morrisons junction

Cost estimate: £30,000

How to register your priorities..

- [Improvements to Acomb Front Street – City of York Council](#)
- Online/ hard copy survey
- 20 sections for feedback including priority table to complete

Phase 2 Proposals	Priorities			
Funded by central government UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Don't know	No	Low	High
Enhance the high street				
Welcome gateway (level crossing space, blue badge parking, seating, planting, signage)				
Review bollards				
Pop up temporary street furniture				
Feasibility study for people friendly street/ pedestrianisation (longer term)				
Market/ opportunities to activate area				
Accessibility				
Raised tables/ level crossing space				
A: Part of Welcome area				
B: Create new central space				
C: Replace dropped crossing Gateway Centre				
Improved Blue Badge car parking				
Extend the benefits beyond the high street				
Wayfinding signage				
Place identity, public art				
New crossing & seating (near Working Men's Club)				

How to get involved.. Before 24 March

By attending one of our drop in events at:

- Joint Acomb, Westfield, Holgate Ward Committee, Gateway Centre, Wednesday 28 February 6.30pm-8.30pm
- Drop-in, Gateway Centre, Thursday 29 February 3pm-6pm
- Drop-in, Acomb Explore, Thursday 7 March 10am-1pm
- Drop-in, Gateway Centre, Saturday 16 March 1pm-4pm



Scan for our
online survey

By filling in our survey online:

We will also add project updates to www.york.gov.uk/AcombFrontStreet.

By completing a print copy of our survey:

These are available at Acomb Explore. Hard copies can also be taken home and returned by post by Sunday 24 March 2024 to: Front Street Acomb Regeneration, Freepost RTEG-TYYU-KLTZ CYC, West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA. Or they can be emailed to acombfrontstreet@york.gov.uk.

Sign up to our newsletter:

We invite you to sign up to Acomb Front Street email list to keep informed about the project .
To join, please email: acombfrontstreet@york.gov.uk.

Alternative formats:

If you require a document in an alternate format (e.g. large print, braille, BSL, audio or Easy Read), you can:

- Email us at cycaccessteam@york.gov.uk
- Call Customer Services on 01904551550
- Or use our BSL video relay service at: www.york.gov.uk/BSLInterpretingService (select 'switchboard' from the menu).



Process/ Timeline

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Questions & Community Involvement