

Recent and Imminent Reinvigorate York Projects

1. Library and Library Square public realm enhancement

Internal alterations to library approved 2009 and now complete.

£150k CYC funded improvements including area in front of the library - improved layout, surface enhancement, and benches/lighting - as well as widening of pavement to improve bus waiting area on Museum Street and entrance to Museum Gardens.

2. 5* Hotel, New CYC Offices and Station Road War Memorial

Application approved in 2009 for high quality conversion of listed former GNER headquarters to 5* hotel. New CYC Offices (West Offices) due to be completed end 2012, open for business March 2013. Opportunity also to look at setting of and accessibility to war memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens 1922-24 and new way-marking as part of Council HQ project.

Hotel now operating, and plans for new CYC offices also approved and preparatory work complete.

3. Minster Piazza

A new and improved setting for the spectacular South Transept with better access is planned, and needs to connect well with Duncombe Place. The space also includes Precentor's Court, Minster Yard, Deangate and Dean's Park.

Planning application to re-pave area and re-model steps approved 5th August 2011.

4. King's Square public realm enhancement

Important small space at top of Shambles framing important views of medieval cityscape. The square is not convincingly harmonized with surrounding buildings and has disabled access issues with raised levels, poor surfacing and uncoordinated street furniture/ signage.

CYC Project Team set up to look at public realm improvement options and review of highways, in continuity with application for chocolate/ confectionary museum.

5. St. Sampson's Square and Parliament Street public realm enhancement

Well used for various events throughout the year and the existing scheme was the result of an RIBA public realm competition in 1989, but could the heart of the city centre be even better? Poor quality telephone box building, confused signage and some evidence of deteriorating paving. Mature London Plane trees create a pedestrian avenue, but can also obstruct movement, activity and views. Could the fountain area be improved?

£120k funding for demolition of public toilets and consideration of public realm improvements approved July 2011. Demolition earmarked for February/ March 2012, followed by public realm options.

6. Fossgate New Footstreet

Very popular destination for restaurants and a mix of independent retailers. Potential to become a footstreet at day and/or night.

Footstreets Review identified Fossgate as the next phase to be pedestrianised.

7. Piccadilly junction improvements

The junction, with heavy car and bus use, effectively cuts off the pedestrian movement and flow from Parliament Street to Piccadilly, not at all helped by the iron guard railings or the positioning of the public toilets and telephones. Relocation of toilets to Silver Street provides an opportunity to reconsider how the site of the existing public toilets is used.

See 15. above. The Footstreets Review has been split to allocate £30k for the footstreets schemes, including Pavement/ Piccadilly junction improvements, and £20k for investigating improvements to Rougier Street/ Station Road.

8. Treemendous

Initiative, in partnership with community groups, to plant 50,000 trees in York over the next 3 years., in line with proposals of New City Beautiful Vision.

Preliminary work has developed project on course for launch and media attention in November of this year, which is the beginning of the first planting season.

9. Duncombe Place public realm enhancement

Challenging opportunity to improve and showcase the last section of this key approach from the Station to the Minster. Potential to become pedestrian boulevard or shared space and opportunities to create quieter spaces at north and south end.

No firm proposals as yet, but CYC Officer discussions are underway, and will build on successful de-cluttering initiatives at Museum Street / Duncombe Place junction.