

Front Street Update

UKSPF Partnership Board April 2024

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



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Phase 1 - Highway improvement scheme



Phase 2

- **Aims**

- Work with community on placemaking, accessibility & start delivering

- **Process**

- Initial design shared with community, request for bolder more creative solutions – worked with urban designers to change scheme
- Feb 24 Executive Member approval directing officers to engage on the costed ideas for a potential phase 2
- 4-week engagement programme
 - Local drop-ins, online survey
 - Joint Ward Committee meeting
 - Trader and young people sessions



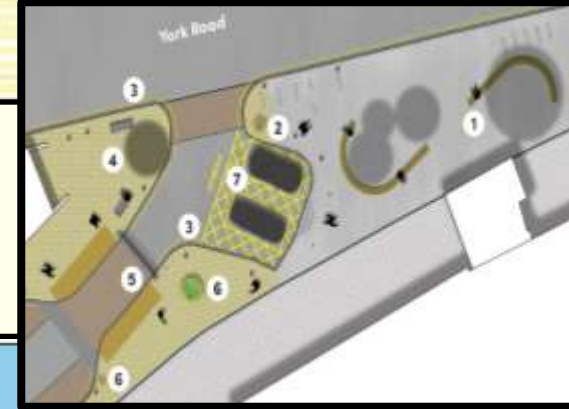
Phase 2

- **4 Key elements**

- Enhancing the high street
- Creating a more accessible destination
- Extending the benefits beyond the high street
- Longer term aspirations

- **Engagement results**

- c 900 responses
- Delay obtaining Freepost responses
- Analysis commenced



Front Street activity

- Christmas lights “switch on”
- Market – started March
- Toilet upgrade - Completed end June 24
- New businesses moving into vacant units
 - The Hand & SoJo’s – Bars
 - Mr Mobile - retail
 - Ouch Potato – relocating to larger premise
- Greater Acomb Community Forum actively recruiting volunteers for events (FOFS)
- To date seeing uplift footfall Yr/Yr +2.7%
- Unique visitor numbers Yr/Yr +7.9%
- Source PlaceInformatics



Next steps

- Complete data analysis
- Design work / finalise phase 2 scheme
- Ongoing dialogue with design and highway construction officers
- Consider long term plan

Date	Timeline
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. Completed by UKSPF deadline March 25

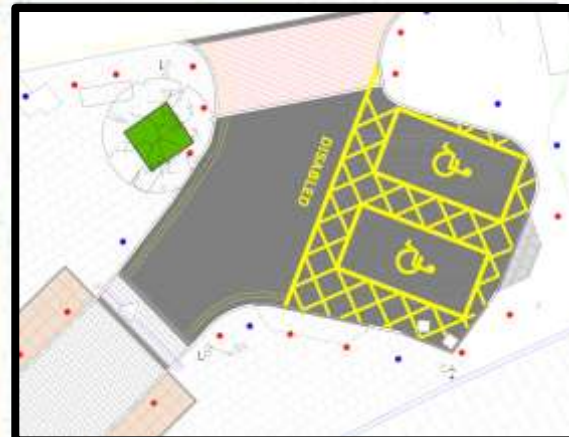
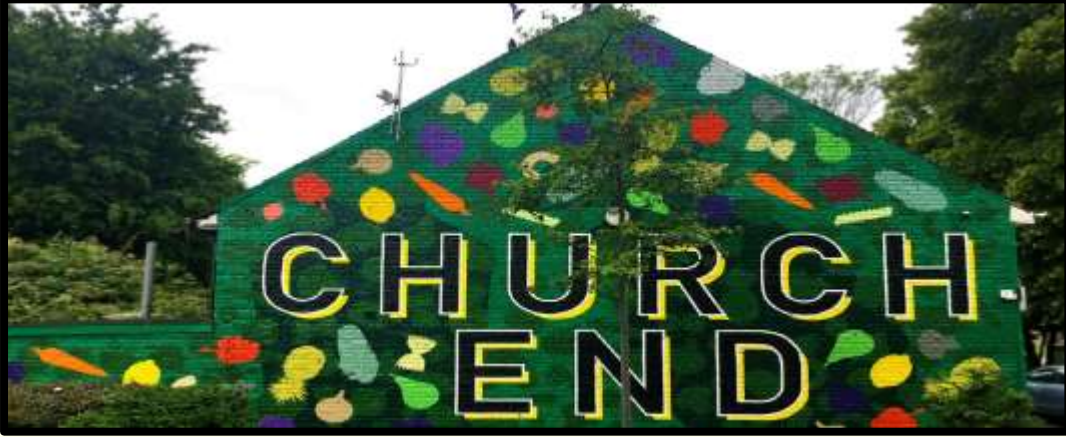
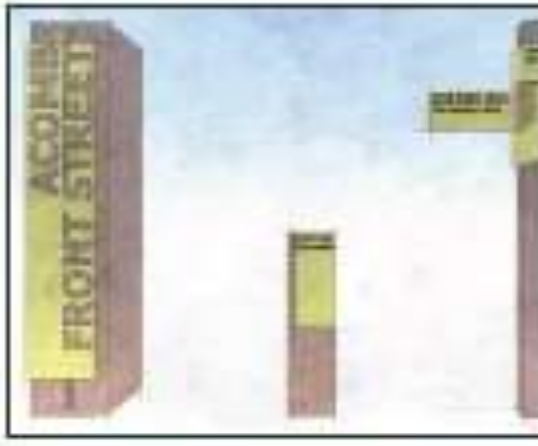
Summary

- **Finance**

- Total spend to date £552,778
- Front Street £460,661 (phase 1 & 2)
- City Centre £92,117 (Fossgate/ Blake Street/ MIMA)
- **Allocated UKSPF funding for phase 2 £570k (c£540k remaining)**

- **Outputs/ Outcomes – on target**

- Delivered 2380m² land made wheelchair accessible/ step free and 1200m² improved public space, significant increase in low carbon infrastructure (cycle racks)
- Increased footfall & unique visitor numbers



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

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.