

Ellesmere Green Proposals

New plans to improve Ellesmere Green

Sheffield City Council have been working with Burngreave New Deal for Communities and local people to carry out a scheme of physical improvements in Spital Hill, as part of the Burngreave and Fir Vale Masterplan proposals. These improvements are aimed at making the Spital Hill District Centre more attractive to shoppers, to improve the economic vitality of the area and to encourage creation of new businesses and expansion of existing ones.

These plans show our redesign for the area between Ellesmere Road, Gower Street and Spital Hill, including the existing green space. This would be the first phase of improvements that would extend down Spital Hill to Caborn's Corner and Spital Street.

These plans were drawn up after consultations with the Spital Hill Project Group and local residents and businesses. They cover just the Ellesmere Green area. Further plans of the remainder of Spital Hill will be drawn up in due course.

The plans were produced with the following in mind:

The need to provide a site for a new market area and community event space.

A wish to provide improved paving, lighting, planting, seating and landscaping.

A need to overcome issues relating to competing needs for space (parking for shoppers and traders) and circulation (buses).

The requirement to link the refurbished Vestry Hall into the wider area, through safe, convenient, attractive pedestrian routes.

What the plans show:

An open market for 26 stalls. We propose that the market would run, initially, weekly, on a weekday (and preferably Friday when there is maximum activity) with potential for occasional Saturday/Sundays. The stalls would be a mix of traders from across the city (and beyond) and those, identified locally, with the help of Burngreave New Deal for Communities and other organisations, which will provide the unique element that distinguishes it from other markets. This will allow opportunities for people locally to develop and try new ventures and encourage new business activity in the area. The occasional weekend markets could be focused more on the specialists (art/ crafts, farmers, etc). The space will be able, at other times, for community events. Requirements for parking and options for solutions are currently being investigated.

Ellesmere Road, opposite the Green, would be closed to traffic, except for servicing the markets and servicing the shops outside the market operating hours or working day. Other traffic will be excluded by rising bollards.

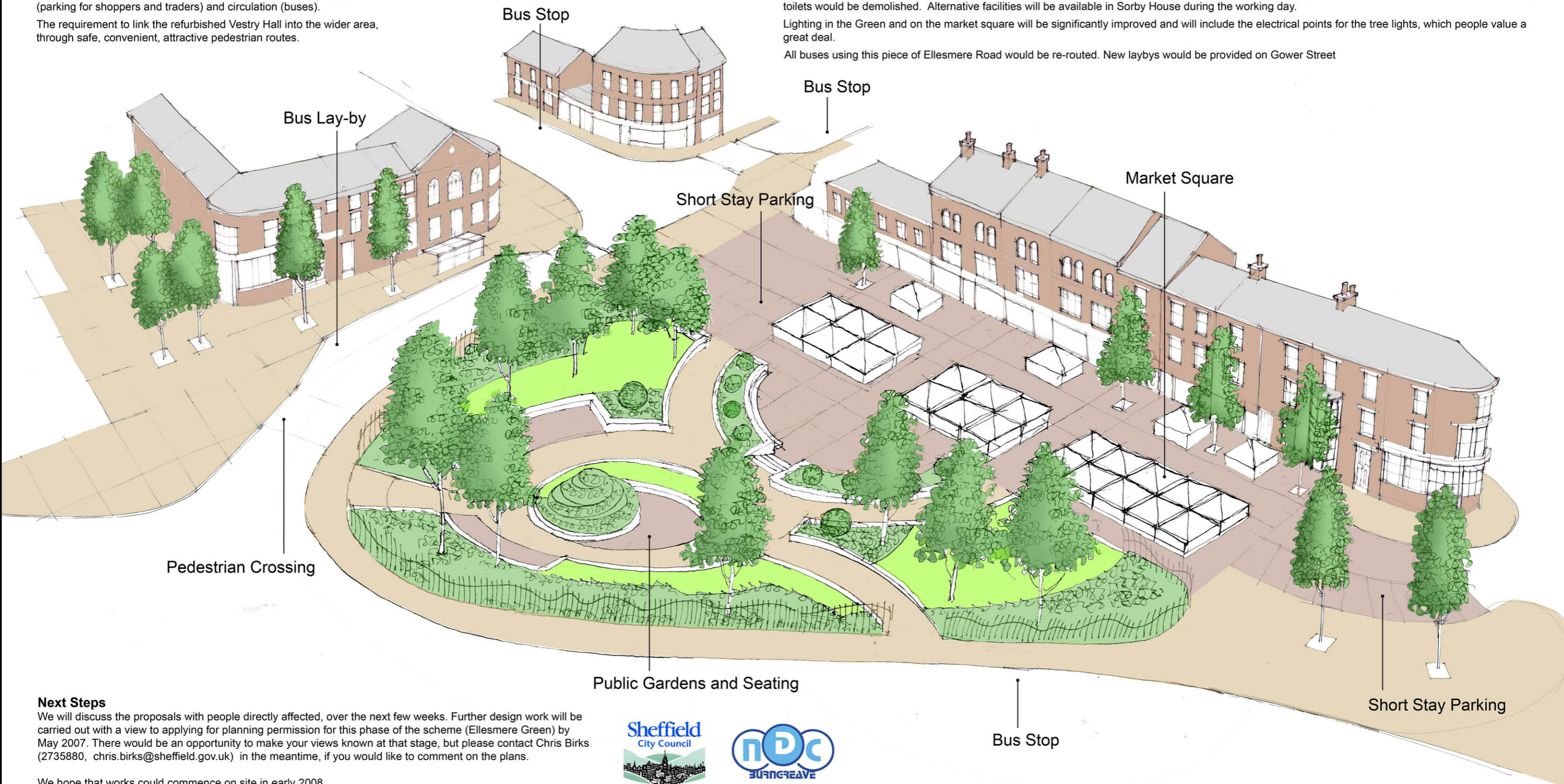
We would retain the majority of trees on the Green, converting the space into a town garden with stunning planting, public art, areas to sit, play and relax. The amount of seating will be greatly increased with a combination of seats with backs, sitting walls and raised beds. Some trees would be removed in the proposals, but these are largely the poorer specimens and have been kept to the minimum, bearing in mind the need to create an attractive space for a number of activities.

The Green will be bounded by an attractive railing, to give a sense of enclosure and reflect the view of people that parents should be able to feel their children were not at risk from traffic. A pedestrian link will connect the Green to the Vestry Hall.

Planting will contain plenty of colour with flowers, but will be designed to allow open views across the green, to maintain a safe and open feel. The existing toilets would be demolished. Alternative facilities will be available in Sorby House during the working day.

Lighting in the Green and on the market square will be significantly improved and will include the electrical points for the tree lights, which people value a great deal.

All buses using this piece of Ellesmere Road would be re-routed. New laybys would be provided on Gower Street



Next Steps

We will discuss the proposals with people directly affected, over the next few weeks. Further design work will be carried out with a view to applying for planning permission for this phase of the scheme (Ellesmere Green) by May 2007. There would be an opportunity to make your views known at that stage, but please contact Chris Birks (2735880, chris.birks@sheffield.gov.uk) in the meantime, if you would like to comment on the plans.

We hope that works could commence on site in early 2008.

