
HEYWOOD CIVIC SQUARE

ROCHDALE

PLANIT

This document is copyright protected and may not be reproduced in whole or part without written authority from the owner.

© 2024 Planit I.E. Limited

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	4	3 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS & FEEDBACK	19	5 PRECEDENTS	43
Development Introduction	5	Engagement Program	20	Flexible Spaces	44
Planning Policy Context	6	Public Involvement	21	Storytelling	45
2 INITIAL LANDSCAPE STUDY	7	Engagement Session Discussion Points	22	Play	46
Location	8	Key Comments	23	Nature	47
Site History	9	Strengths & Weaknesses	24	Furniture	48
Existing Site Photos	10	Opportunities & Constraints	25	6 STRATEGIES	49
Site Analysis - New Civic Building	11	Headline Questionnaire Results	26	Hardworks Strategy	50
Site Analysis - Topography	12	Addressing Other Suggestions	27	Play Strategy	51
Site Analysis - Movement Networks	13	4 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT	28	Furniture Strategy	52
Site Analysis - Existing Structure & Artworks	14	Updated Public Realm Brief	29	Lighting Strategy	53
Site Analysis - Relocation of Existing Artwork	15	Sketch Options	30	Softworks Strategy	54
Site Analysis - Culture & Heritage Study	16	Spatial Concept	31		
Opportunities & Constraints	17	Illustrative Section	32		
Flexible Space Capacity Study	18	Illustrative Masterplan	34		
		Access & Circulation	35		
		Accessibility Strategy	36		
		Levels & Drainage	37		
		Events	38		
		Vehicular Access for Events	39		
		Illustrative Axonometric	40		
		Illustrative Visual	41		
		Secured by Design	42		

1 INTRODUCTION

Development Introduction

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) has been prepared by Planit to support a full planning application and submitted on behalf of the Rochdale Development Agency, representing the Client, Rochdale Borough Council. The application is for major improvements to Heywood's Civic Square to create a more flexible, accessible and inclusive public space



Project Vision

The vision for this project is to transform the square into a more inviting public space that encourages greater use by local residents, community groups, schools, and businesses, while attracting additional visitors to Heywood's vibrant and historic town centre. The proposal seeks to enhance the public area in front of the new Heywood Civic Centre extension, incorporating versatile spaces for outdoor events, interactive green areas, and improved seating and paving.

This document outlines our design approach and development journey, shaped through close collaboration with local stakeholders and community members.

Location & Site Context

The site is situated in the heart of Heywood, a historic market town within the Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale. The square is surrounded by key buildings and public facilities, including the Heywood Civic Centre, Heywood Library, the NHS Phoenix Centre, Heywood Market, The Memorial Gardens, as well as local shops and schools.

As a central hub for the community, the square serves as a gathering place and event space. However, the current design does not fully realise its potential as a welcoming and functional public area. Enhancing this space will foster community interaction, strengthen social connections, and create a more inviting environment for all.

Planning Policy Context

The proposal for Heywood Square has been informed by the following planning policies



Rochdale Core Strategy 2016

- SP3/H: The Strategy for Heywood
- E1: Establishing a thriving town, district and local centres
- E5: Encouraging the visitor economy
- P1: Improving image
- P2: Protecting and enhancing character, landscape and heritage
- P3: Improving design of new development
- G1: Enhancing green infrastructure
- G7: Increasing the value of biodiversity and geodiversity
- G8: Managing water resources and flood risk
- T2: Improving accessibility
- DM1: General development requirements
- Appendix 5: Schedule of parking standards

Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan ADOPTED 21 MARCH 2024

- Jp-Strat12: Main Town Centres
- JP-P1: Sustainable Places
- JP-P2: Heritage
- JP-P3: Cultural Facilities
- JP-G6: Urban Green Space
- JP-C5: Streets for All
- JP-C6: Walking and Cycling

In addition, the Oldham and Rochdale Public Realm Design Guide has been consulted throughout the research, analysis, consultation and design process.

2

INITIAL
LANDSCAPE
STUDY

Location

The site is centrally located within Heywood in between Heywood Civic Centre, Heywood Library and the Phoenix Centre

Key

- 1 Heywood Civic Centre
- 2 Heywood Central Library
- 3 Heywood Memorial Gardens
- 4 Phoenix Centre
- 5 Heywood Civic Centre Car Park
- 6 Parish Church of St. Luke
- 7 Heywood Market



Site History

Historically occupied by housing, the site has evolved over time, adapting to meet the changing needs of the community in various ways

In 1848 the site was situated on the outskirts of the town and featured terraced housing. Housing was also positioned either side of the site with farmland extending to the south.

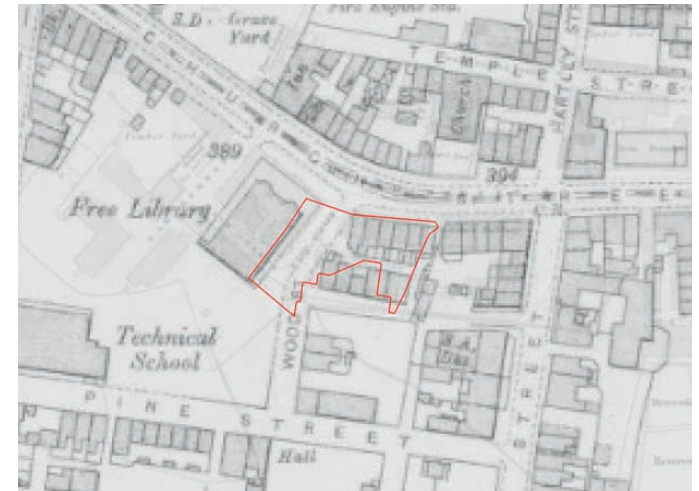
By 1907, the recently completed Heywood Library replaces housing at the junction between Chapel Street and Wood Street. Heywood Memorial Gardens will soon be constructed to the west (completed 1912) and can be seen in the map form 1937 opposite.

By 1956, Heywood's Hall (latterly Civic Centre) is built and the land immediately in front is cleared of housing. In the years following, Wood Street will be removed and buildings to the east will be demolished, eventually becoming the location of the Civic Centre car park. The Phoenix Centre will also be constructed on the site of Heywood Grammar School.

1848



1907



1937



1956



Existing Site Photos

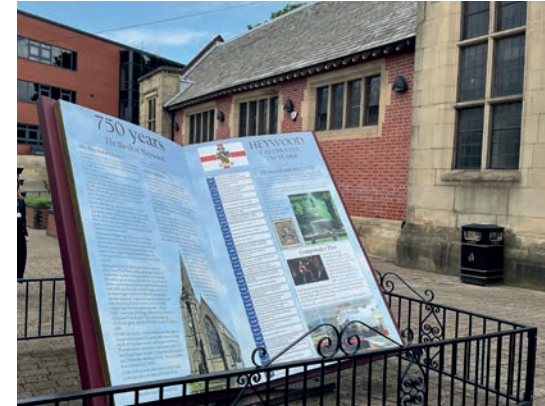
A large expanse of paving



Existing boundary planting with carved wooden sculptures



Book sculpture commemorating Heywood's history



Raised brick planters



A collection of memorial benches

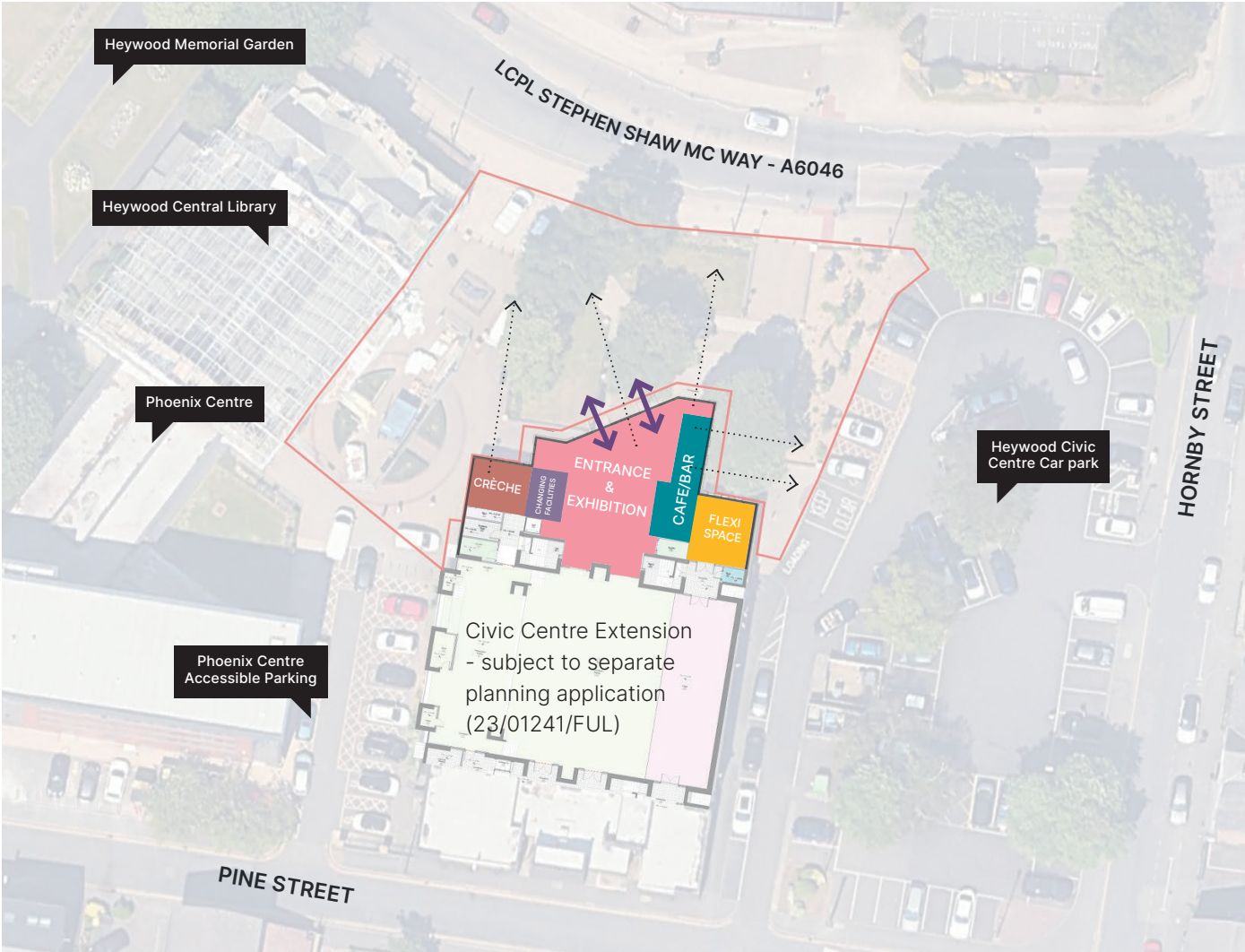


Existing mature trees marking entrance of the square

Site Analysis - New Civic Building

The proposed extension of Heywood Civic Centre will open directly onto the square.

This proposal will take opportunities to create visual connections between the building's interior and the square, fostering an integration of indoor and outdoor spaces.

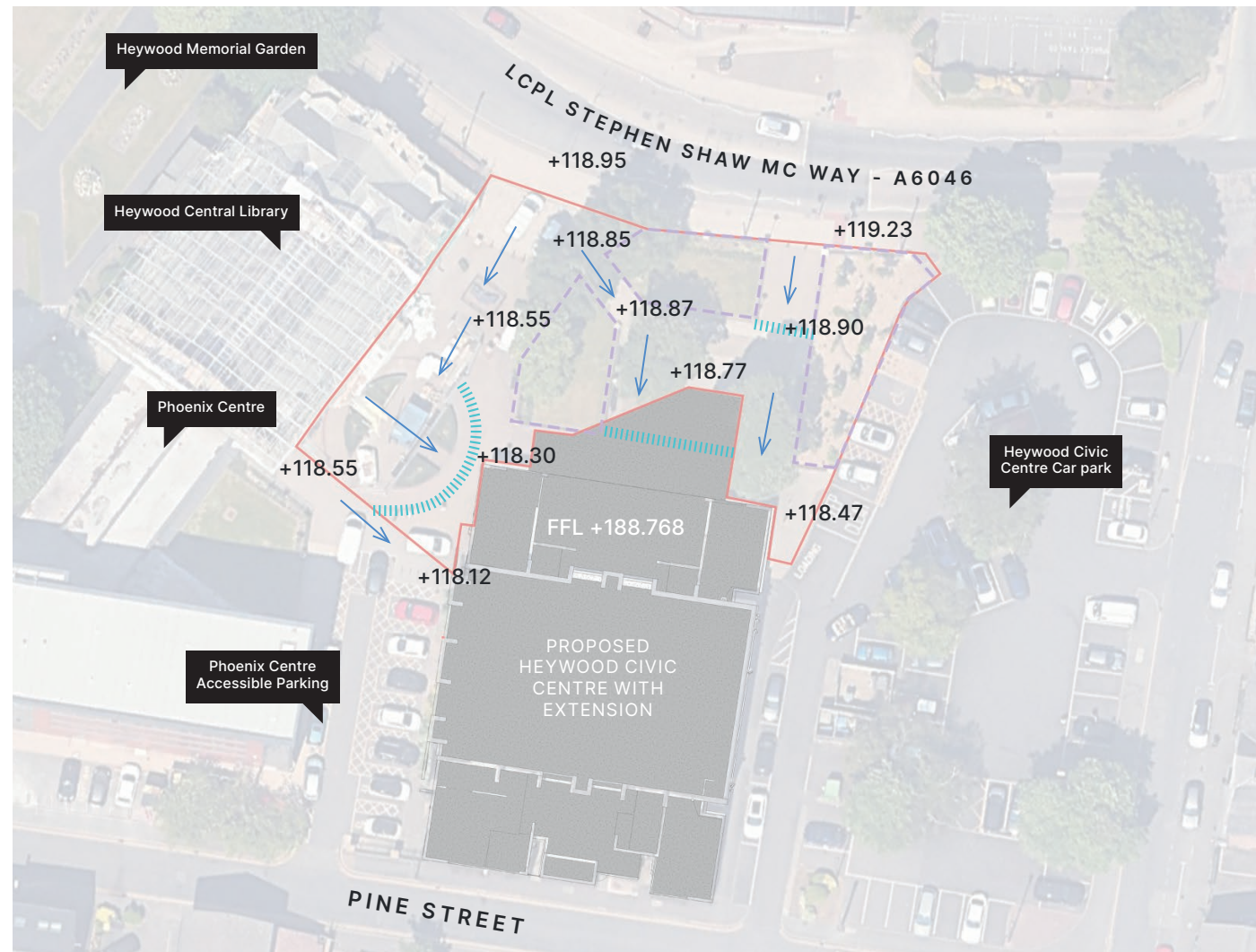


- Key
-  New Building Entrances
 -  Views to Civic Square from within Building

Site Analysis - Topography

The existing topography gently slopes from LCpl Stephen Shaw MC Way towards the Civic Centre building.

The key design will ensure the proposal integrates with the surrounding levels, requiring minimal alterations to the existing topography.



Key

- +118.47 Existing Spot Levels
- Existing Drainage Channels
- Existing Retaining Walls
- Site Boundary

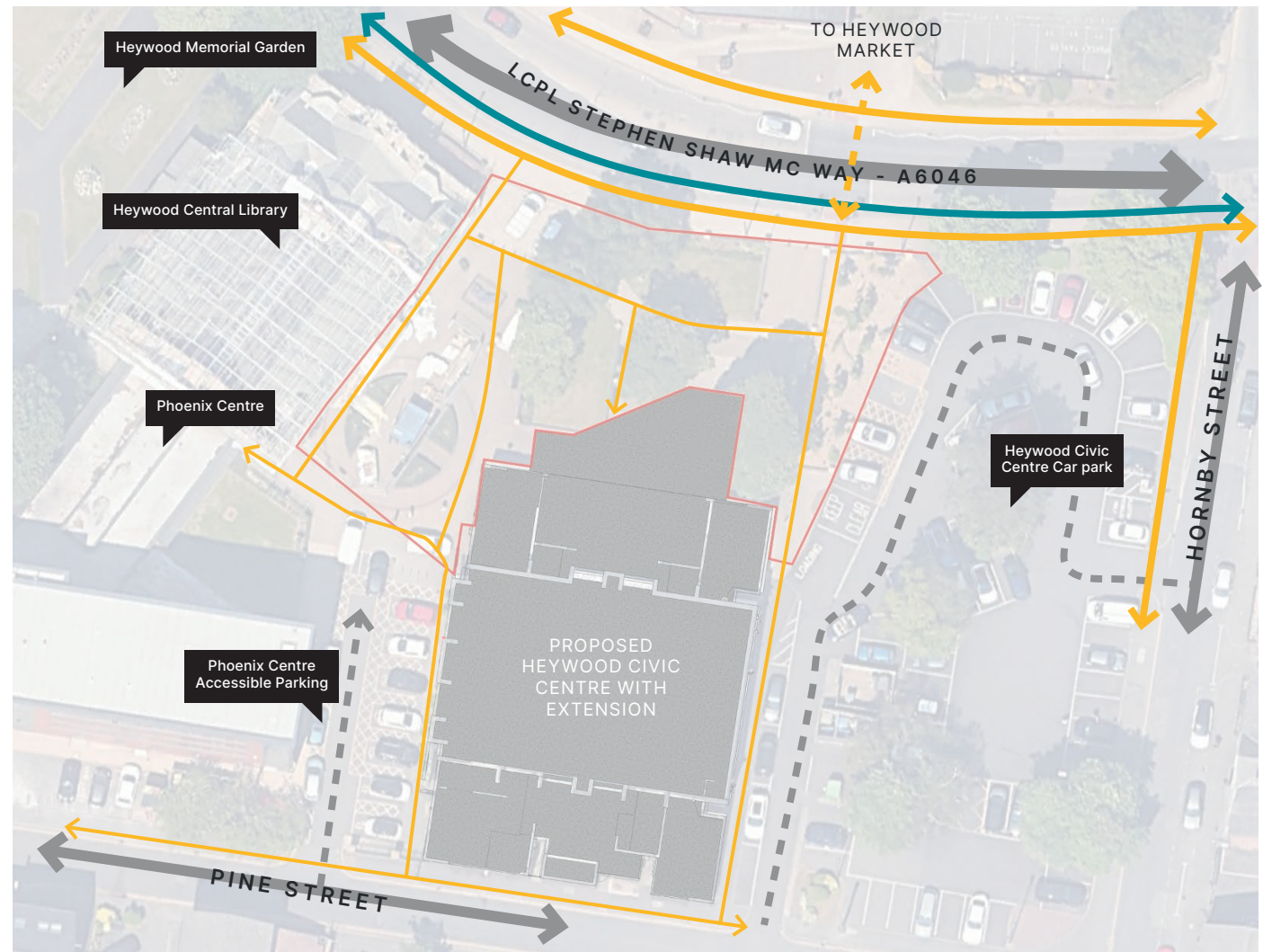
Site Analysis - Movement Networks

The site currently serves as a key access and thoroughfare to several important facilities, including the Library and the Phoenix Centre. It also provides a vital connection to the school located behind the Civic Centre.

Many people use the Civic Centre car park and walk through the square to access these facilities, so maintaining an accessible route is crucial for future design development.

Key

-  Roads
-  Primary Pedestrian Links
-  Secondary Pedestrian Links
-  Bus Links
-  Existing Pedestrian Crossing



Site Analysis - Existing Structure & Artworks

A strategy has been explored to free up space in the square by relocating existing artworks and street furniture, allowing flexibility for potential future events.

Key

- Existing Brick Retaining Walls
- x Existing Artworks & Decorative Street Furniture

Heywood history sculpture



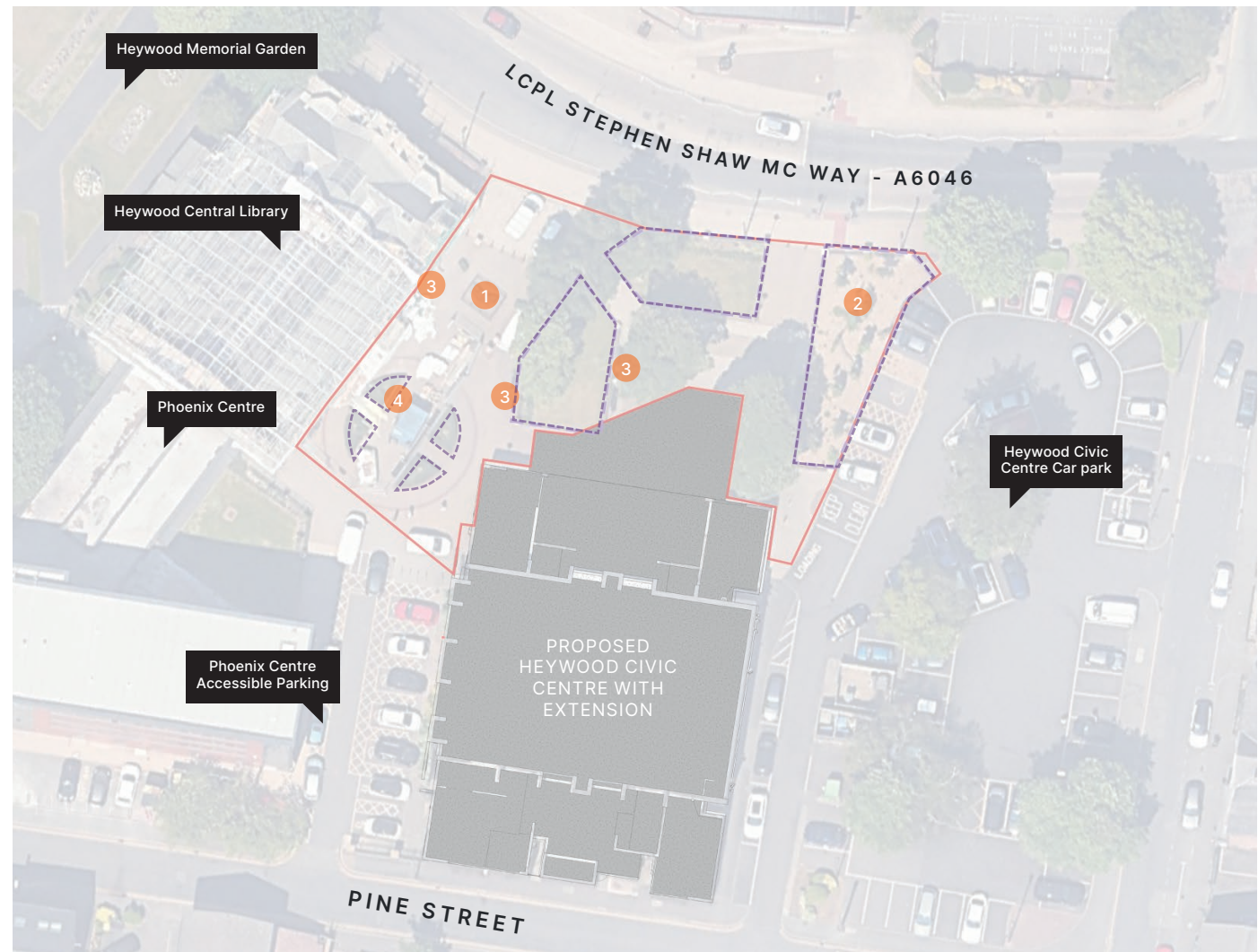
Timber sculpture within planting



Decorative memorial benches



Raised brick planters



Site Analysis - Relocation of Existing Artwork

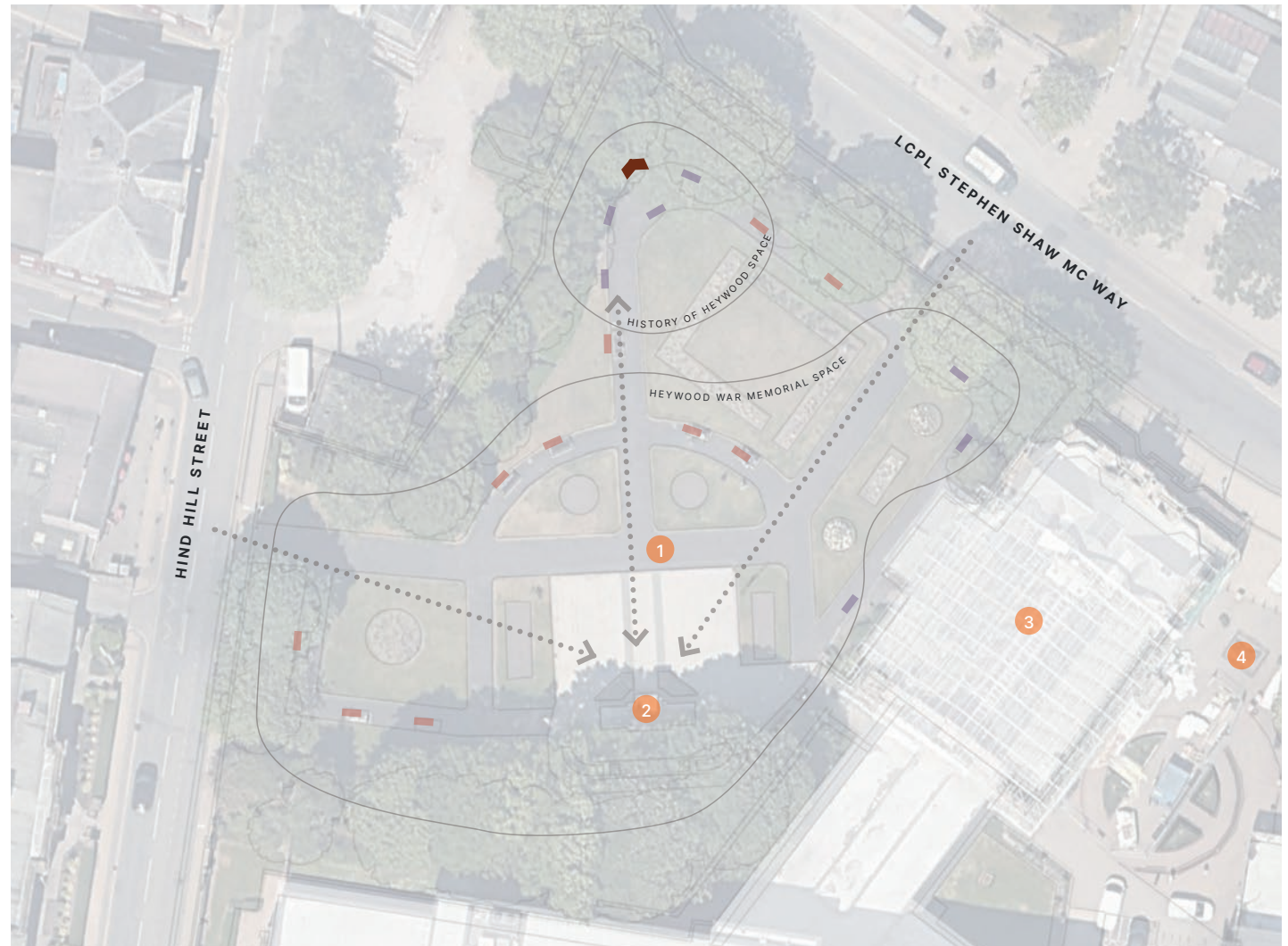
The new proposed location for the Heywood book and benches ensures that the current direct sight lines to the existing memorial sculpture are maintained.

Key

- Existing Benches (x10)
- Proposed Relocated Benches (x7)
- Proposed History of Heywood Book
- Key Sight Lines
- 1 Heywood Memorial Gardens
- 2 Heywood War Memorial
- 3 Heywood Library
- 4 Current Location of History of Heywood Book



Visual of History of Heywood Book Sculpture in proposed location in the northern corner of Heywood Memorial Gardens



Site Analysis - Culture & Heritage Study



Heywood Civic Square



Heywood Civic Centre: a well used multi-purpose entertainment and meeting venue (currently undergoing refurbishment)



Heywood Library: serving the community since 1906, the library offers a wide range of activities and support for the whole community



Heywood Memorial Gardens: home to Heywood War memorial, the gardens are a well used yet tranquil space in the heart of the community



Parish Church of St Luke, Heywood: a local landmark, the current church (1862), is well used and is often features as a venue for local events



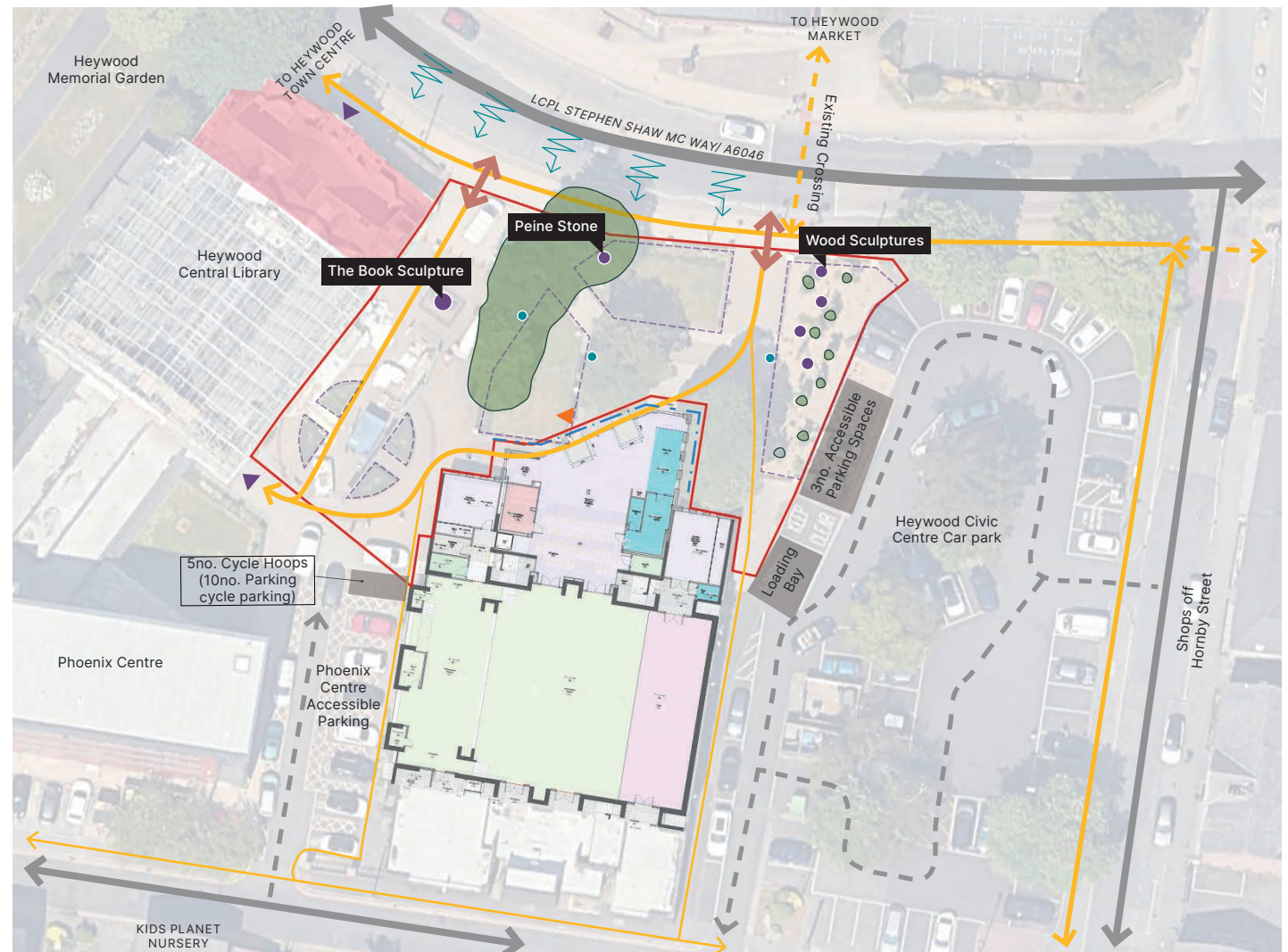
Heywood Market: centrally located, the market is a community focused asset for Heywood and home to over 30 independent traders



Opportunities & Constraints

Key

- Proposed Site Boundary
- ↔ Existing Site Access
- ▲ Existing Key Building Entrance
- ▲ Proposed New Access to Civic Centre
- ↔ Existing Pedestrian Movements
- - - Existing Crossing Point
- Existing Vegetation
- Grade II Listed Building
- ~ Noise from A6046
- Diverted Foul Water Connection - as part of Civic Centre building works
- - - Existing Raised Brick Planters
- Existing Artworks
- Roads
- Existing Bins

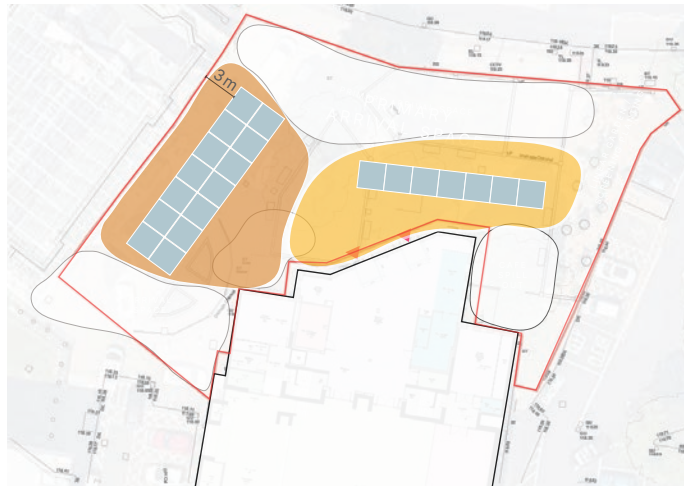


Flexible Space Capacity Study

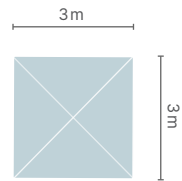
Approx.
376m²

Approx.
301m²

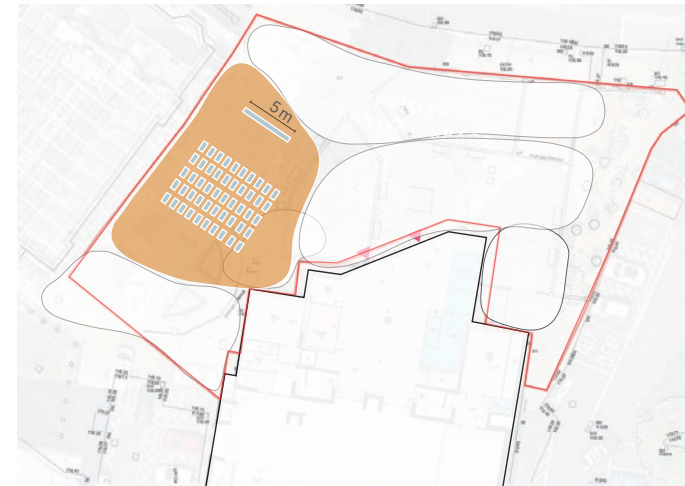
Temporary Market Stalls



Typical Market Stall Size

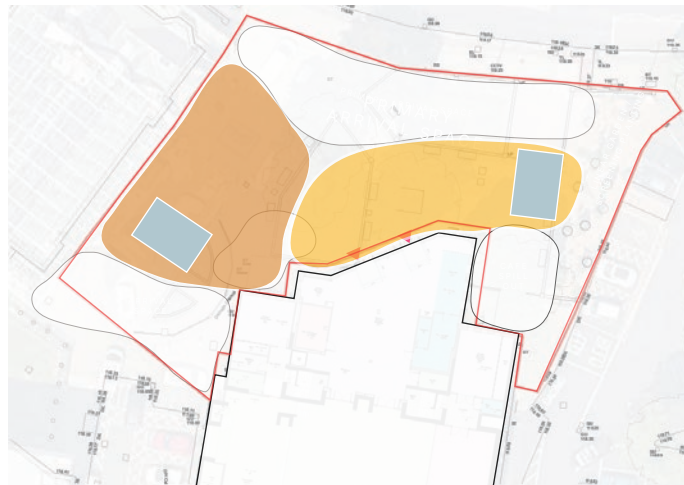


Outdoor Cinema

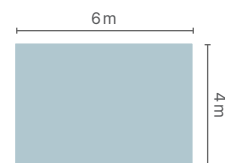


Based on 16ft wide
inflatable outdoor
cinema screen.

Temporary Stage



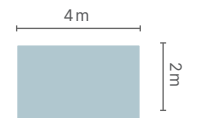
Typical Temporary Stage Size



Food Trucks and Mobile Food Stalls



Typical Food Truck Size



3

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS & FEEDBACK

Engagement Program

Several engagement sessions were held which gave us great insights into how the space is currently used and what it might need in the future.

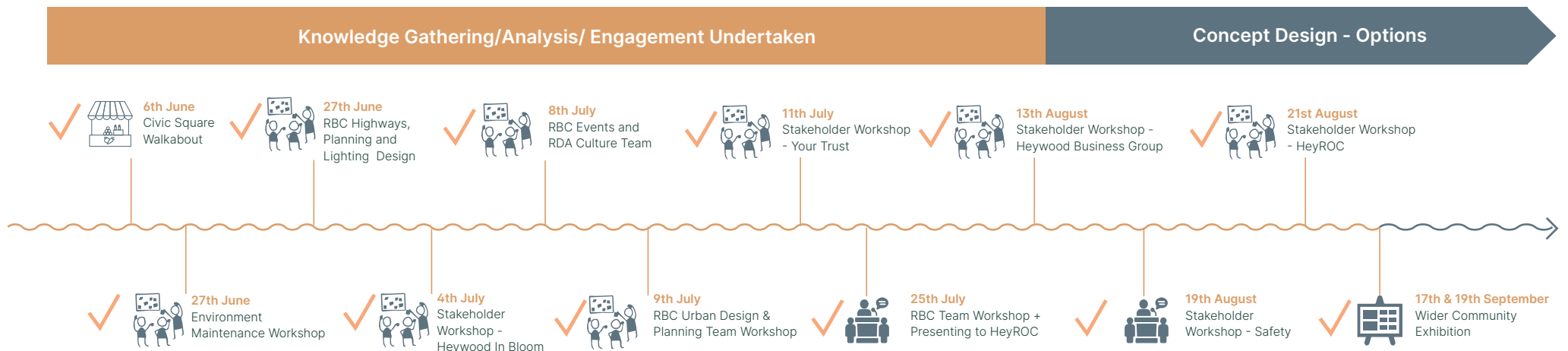
Various types of engagement, both online, in person, in groups and one-to-one were undertaken over the course of three months, to refine the design before presenting to the public in September.

As well as stakeholders from the Council, we approached the Civic Centre operators YourTrust,

staff at the Phoenix Centre and various community groups such as Cartwheel Arts, Heywood's Business Group, Heywood Towns Board, Heywood in Bloom and the Culture Coop.

We gathered valuable comments and opinions that have helped shape our design.

Design Process



Public Involvement

Wider community consultation sessions took place on the 17th & 19th September

Held within Heywood Library, as well as the square itself, the engagement events were delivered by representatives from Planit and Rochdale Council. The two sessions aimed to engage with members of the wider community, share our emerging ideas and gain first-hand local knowledge. In addition to an exhibition of plans, visuals and outline of the journey to date, the engagement events invited views and opinions through informal drop-in sessions with the team, collected user data with a questionnaire and utilised a mood board to help guide design decisions.

The events were well attended and proved an invaluable opportunity to meet and hear from those who care deeply about the place that they live.

The consultation boards were left up in the library for over a week to allow for further feedback. There was also an opportunity for the public to join an online session to discuss the proposals.



Drop in Sessions

Day 1: 17th September 2024 (5-7pm)
Day 2: 19th September 2024 (11-3pm)
Venue: Heywood Library

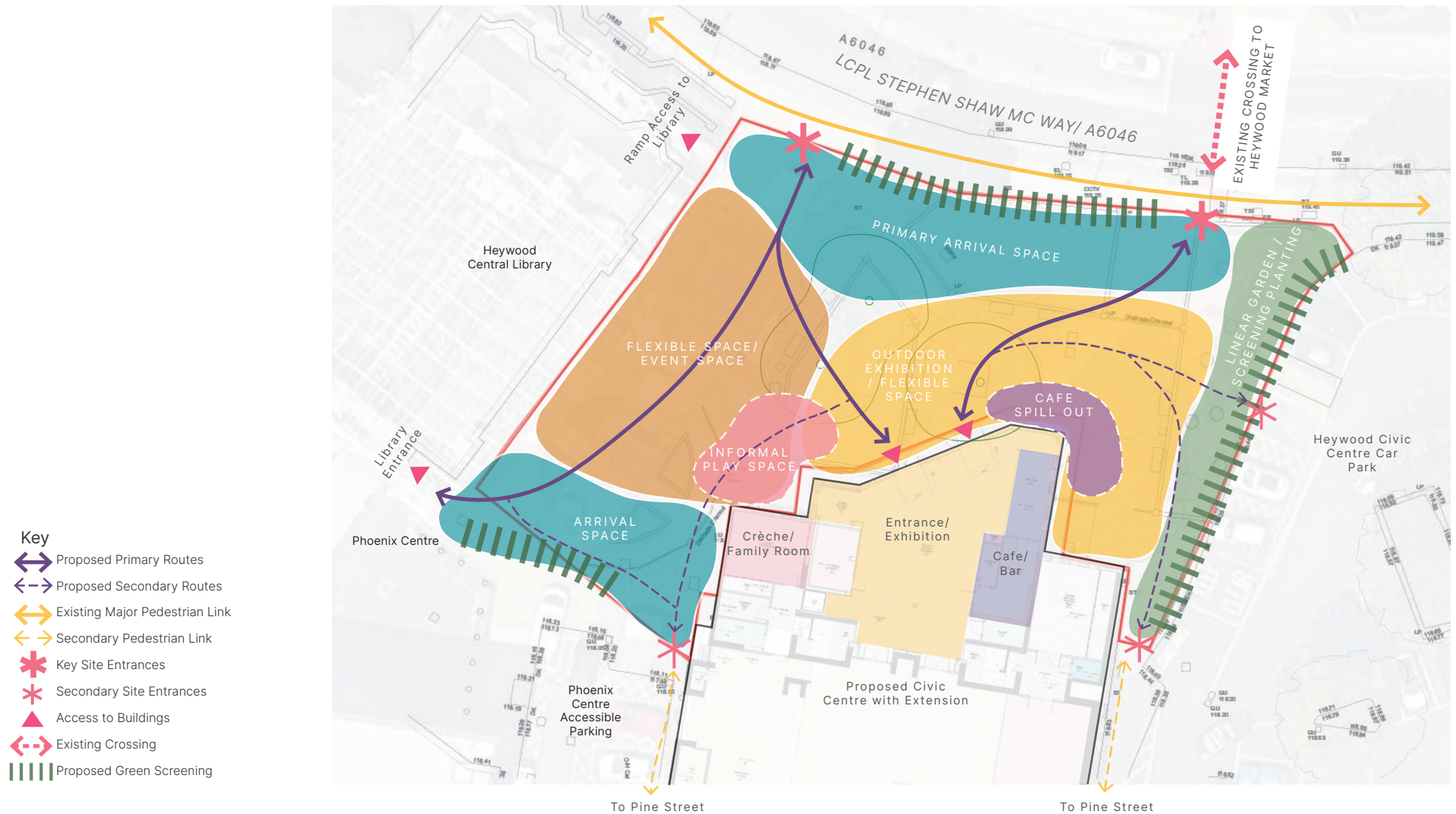
Desired Outcomes

- Communication of findings from engagement activity to date
- Gain local knowledge
- Understand how the space is currently used
- Identify strengths and opportunities
- Highlight existing issues, concerns and conflicts
- Discover dreams and aspirations
- Test the emerging ideas
- Establish trust and build rapport
- Develop a common language and mutual understanding of the process
- Build momentum and long-term commitment and engagement
- Instil ownership and responsibility

Methods and Activities

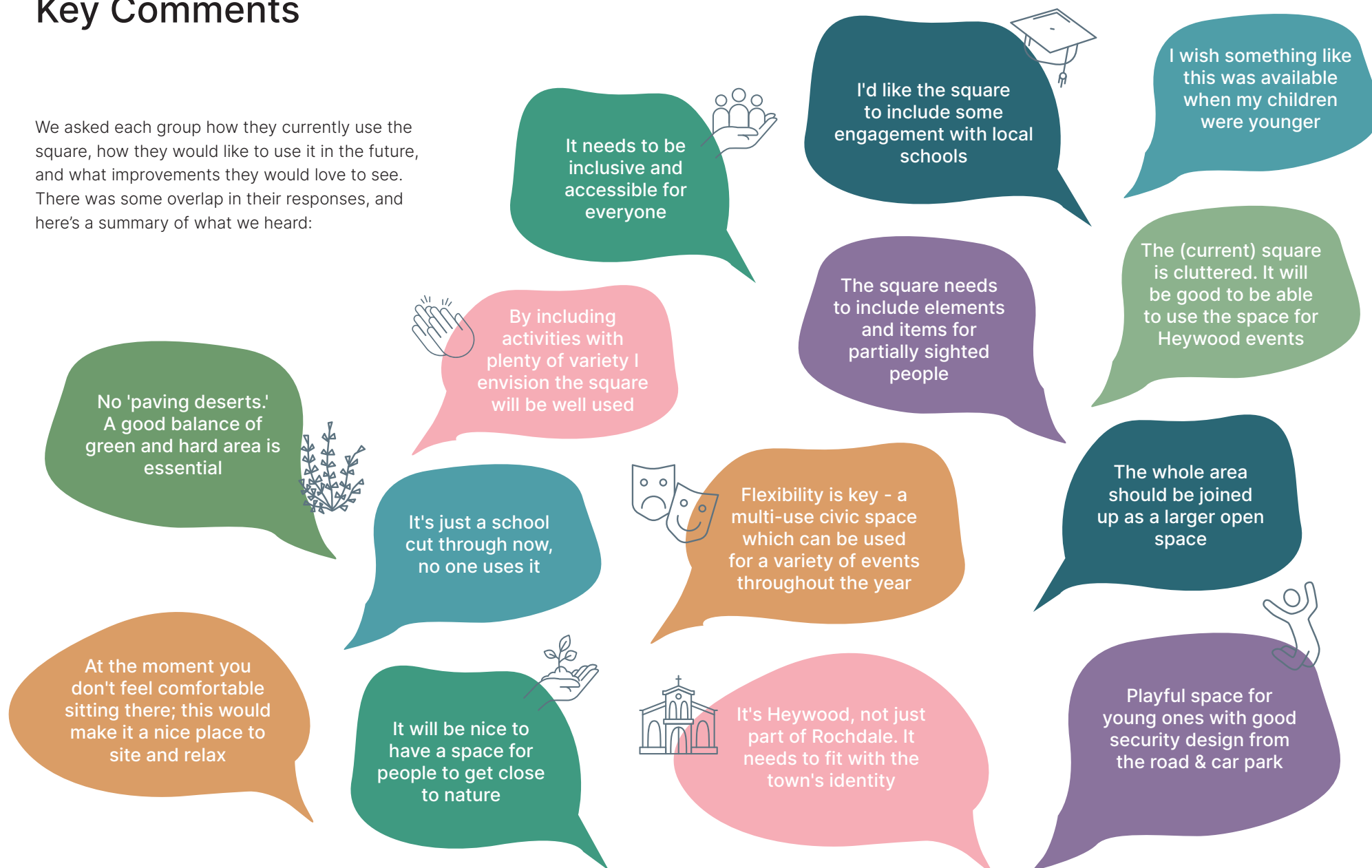
Exhibition of plans and ideas with drop-in Q&A sessions along with a questionnaire and mood board

Spatial Concept Discussed at Engagement Sessions



Key Comments

We asked each group how they currently use the square, how they would like to use it in the future, and what improvements they would love to see. There was some overlap in their responses, and here's a summary of what we heard:



Summary - Strengths & Weaknesses

Opposite is a summary of the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the site, as identified by the stakeholder groups

Strengths

- Heywood has a strong identity; many arts and culture events led by both local groups and council
- People & Community; community initiative e.g. Heywood in Bloom, Culture Coop
- Excellent Location at the Centre of Communities; the square is adjacent to the Phoenix Centre, the library, and the Memorial Garden. It is also only a couple of minutes away from the market, the church, and nearby schools
- The library is a beautiful historic building
- Heritage
- Amenity provided by existing trees
- Good events such as the 1940s day and Christmas light switch-on
- Activities and workshops from the library.
- The square has the potential to accommodate small scale events
- Many existing seating

Weaknesses

- The square is only used as a walk through at the moment; people don't feel inspired to stay
- Lack of dwell spaces
- Space is divided into small areas by brick planters, benches and other existing objects
- Poor performance spaces for events
- Lack of active edges and attractive frontages
- Lack of direct access from the Civic car park
- Lack of way finding generally in Heywood
- Lighting can be improved
- Current paving not performing well; some puddles form when it rains and some paving slabs uneven
- Adjacent to busy LCpl Stephen Shaw MC Way (A6046) creating noise and a sense of danger, especially for people with children
- Existing seating doesn't offer flexibility, size and height to suit different age groups and body types
- The square currently lacks a character of its own

Summary - Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

- Introduce flexible space for a range of events and uses to meet needs of different users
- Introduce naturalistic planting to create urban habitats and for children to explore nature
- Space for kids and youth to have something to do for free
- Create more spaces to dwell and people-watch
- Seating and tables (both formal and informal)- for having food, outdoor workshops and art sessions etc.
- Cafe spill out space
- Screening from Stephen Shaw MC Way and car parks
- Improved signage and way finding
- Playful but not a playground
- Activate the edges of the new Civic building
- Utilise the change in level to create seating and playful elements
- Incorporating something unique to the culture and history of Heywood
- Improve lighting to enhance ambience
- Potential to relocate 'the book' and memorial benches to the Memorial Garden and relocate the wood sculpture to other local places
- Spaces to display seasonal and temporary art works
- Bike parking
- Durable paving that can bear vehicle loading for future events such as market days and food vans
- Potential to reuse existing material
- Future proofing design for minimum the next 10 years

Constraints

- Might lose 1 or 2 parking spaces at the Civic car park to allow for new access
- Loading Bay Clashing: Using the existing loading bay at the Civic car park may conflict with future activities like Market Day when the car park is busy
- Delivery point - currently comes in on Pine Street, cafe to the front might create more pressure to the loading bay
- Traffic from Stephen Shaw MC Way and nearby car park is a concern for children
- The weather - needs to be an attractive and useful space through all seasons
- Refuse vehicle - needs to consider where they park and how to access the Square
- There might be a basement under the square and car park interface - needs further investigation
- Existing Trees

Headline Questionnaire Results

The wider Heywood community was invited to share their thoughts about both the existing and proposed by completing a questionnaire

The questionnaire received 35 responses and offered the team with a valuable insight into the local community as well as visitors to the square from further afield.

The majority of people polled were local to Heywood and mostly arrived into the square on foot. In addition, the questionnaire reflected a fairly even distribution in visitor age for all groups apart from those aged 25-34 which were slightly less represented.

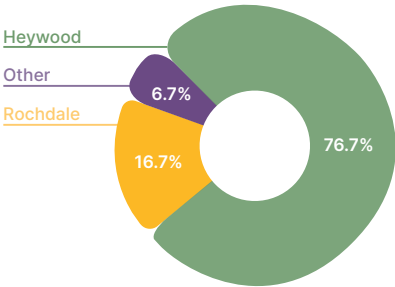
Overall, of those who took part in the consultation activities, the majority felt that the existing square was uninspiring and lacking in any meaningful purpose or particular reason to dwell. This view is further supported through the strong desire among those who completed the questionnaire for more activation within the space covering a diverse range of features and events. Despite this, the space is currently well visited, with analysis of participant usage showing the majority use the space as a cut-through to somewhere else such as Heywood Library or the Phoenix Centre.

In regard to usage frequency, a plurality of respondents (45.7%) visit the square weekly of which 37.5% of those visit almost everyday.

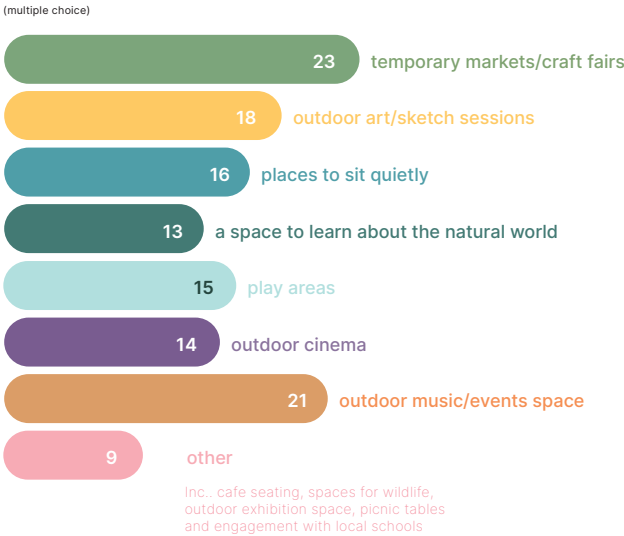
Taking into account the current footfall and appetite for improvement, we conclude that there exists a real potential for the square to become a popular and well used community asset provided an adequate space is created and the correct program of events developed.

Flexibility of space for the new square will be crucial in delivering the aspirations of the local community, safeguarding its success and long-term value to the community.

Q1 Where do you live?



Q9 What activities would you like to see happening in the square?



Addressing Other Suggestions

During the consultation events, we asked the community to share any other ideas that they may have. Here is a summary of the most common responses and how we have addressed them within the proposal

"Heywood Market should not be forgotten about and instead included in the plans"

During the public consultation, concern was raised regarding the future of Heywood Market. Heywood Market is a much valued asset, not only for the local community but also visitors to the town. As such, while it is located outside the boundary for this project, it was identified during our Local Culture and Heritage Study. While one of the suggested temporary uses for the new square is a market, this is in no way intended to be in competition with Heywood Market.

"It would be great to include some shelter from the wind and rain"

While shelter is always welcome, especially during inclement weather, we have to consider the security and maintenance of these structures in terms of both visibility to and from surrounding areas as well as protection against vandalism. Guided by *Secured by Design*, an official UK Police initiative, we've instead placed seating and rest areas in naturally sheltered spots, with existing trees and new vegetation offering protection from the worst of the weather. In addition, the adjacent refurbished Civic Centre & Heywood Library are anticipated to be a warm and welcoming haven for all.

"The Memorial Book isn't featured anywhere on the new scheme"

In order to provide room for the anticipated future uses of the square, as part of our proposal we have considered alternative positions for the Book and feel a more appropriate space would be within Heywood Memorial Gardens. While still visible from the road and adjacent footpath, this location will provide a more appropriate and contemplative space for the Book; somewhere people can dwell rather than walk past.

"The square needs to include accessible toilets"

We've not included provision for any public toilets within the square as existing facilities can be found nearby in the Library and Phoenix Centre. The refurbished Civic Centre will also include accessible public conveniences.

"A water feature would be nice and in keeping with nature"

To provide for nature we have focused our attention on biodiverse planting and the retention of existing trees. The inclusion of a rain garden to manage surface water will also provide an excellent refuge for local wildlife. The raingarden will remain dry most of the time but will fill with water during rainfall, transforming into a small water feature.

4

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Updated Public Realm Brief

Based on the feedback received from our consultation and stakeholder engagement sessions, we have identified the following key aims for the space that we intend to incorporate into our design:



Spatial Concept

1: Define the key circulation



2: Create the key spaces



3: Join together



Sketch Options

Option 1

- Removes 2 existing trees
- Creates a large, joined paved area
- Limits the pockets of green spaces to sit within



Option 2

- Retains 2 existing trees
- Incorporates informal seating and stage feature
- Retains and improves key links across spaces



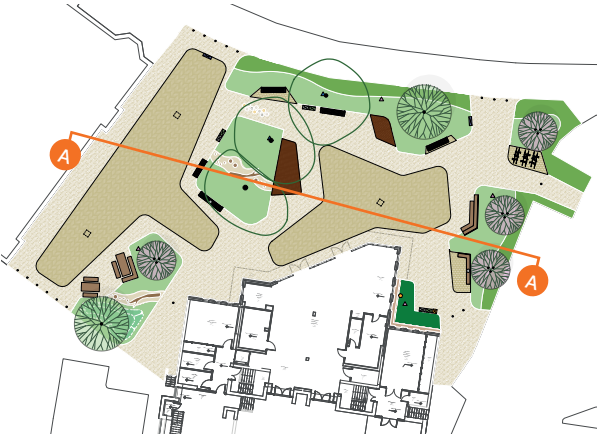
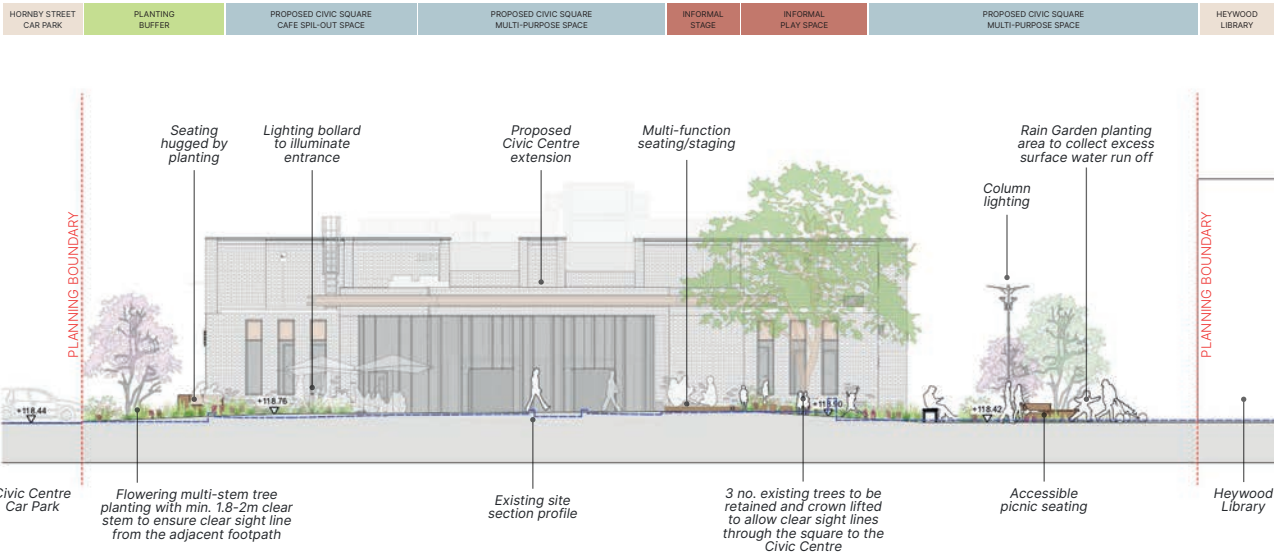
Option 2 is preferred primarily due to its retention of existing trees. Through this, in addition to the benefit to nature, the square gains the ability to host dual events while still allowing unobstructed access throughout. This option also maximises the opportunity for seating within or next to planted areas.

Illustrative Sections

A-A Existing



A-A Proposed

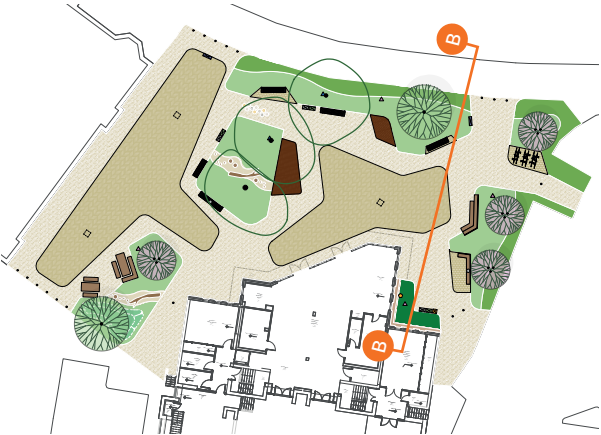
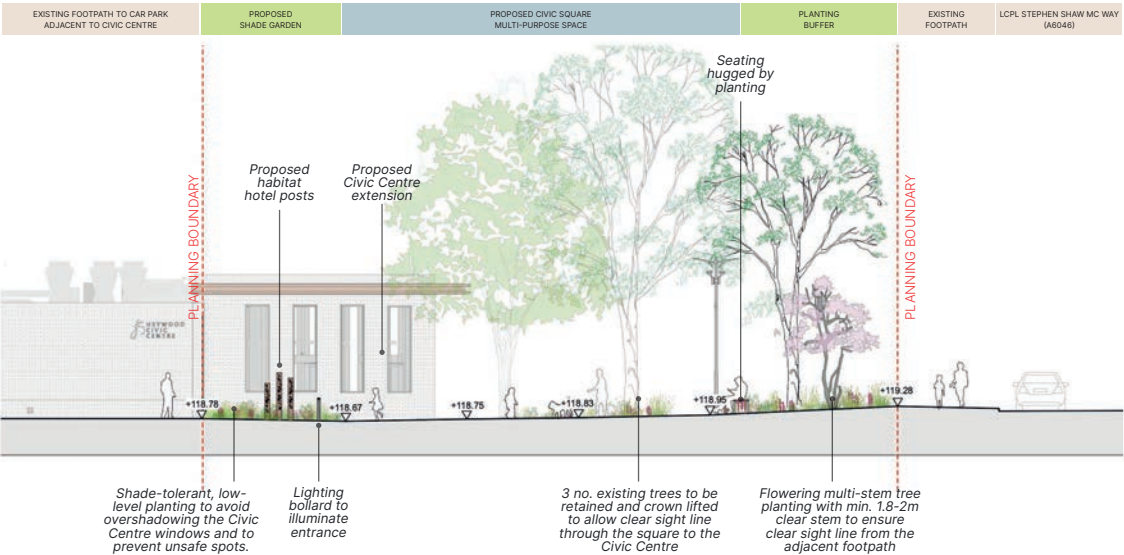


Illustrative Sections

B-B Existing



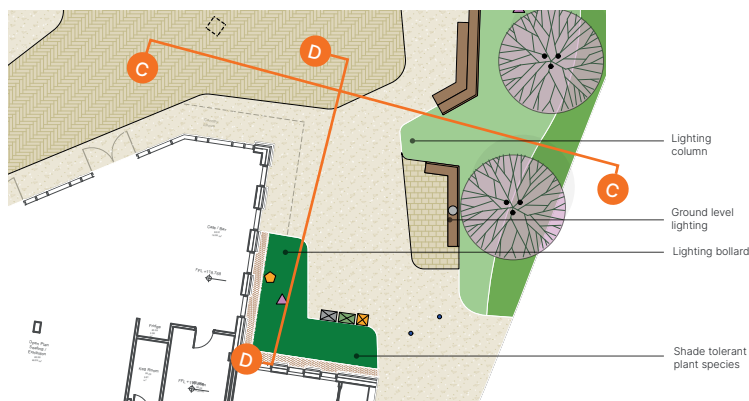
B-B Proposed



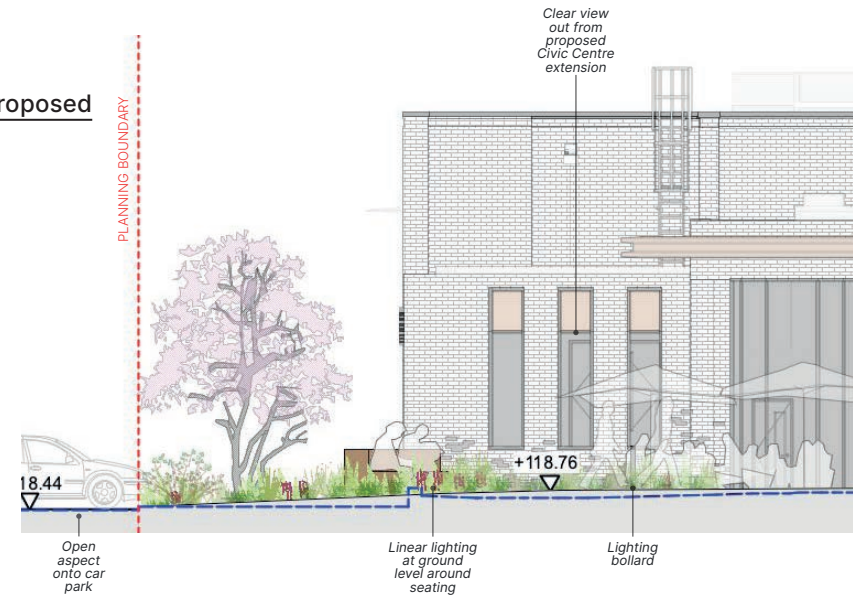
Section in Detail

In response to feedback received during pre-application meetings, the south east corner of the site is shown here in more detail. Due to its position adjacent to the proposed Civic Centre extension, its north facing aspect and continued use as a key access route, the following strategies have been implemented:

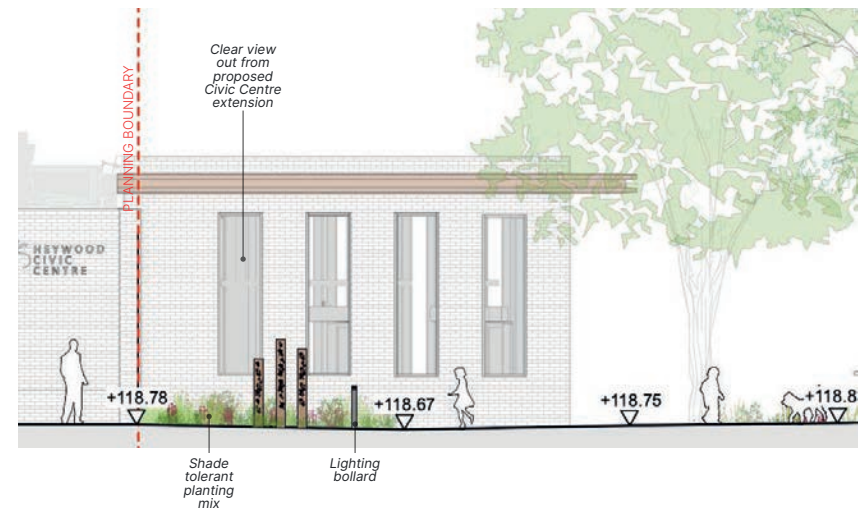
- Provision of bollard, column and ground level lighting
- Specification of shade tolerant plant species
- Limiting visual barriers to and from car park
- Ensuring windows from the proposed Civic Centre extension remain unobstructed
- Creating a clear, straight route through without any bends or hidden corners



C-C Proposed



D-D Proposed



Illustrative Masterplan



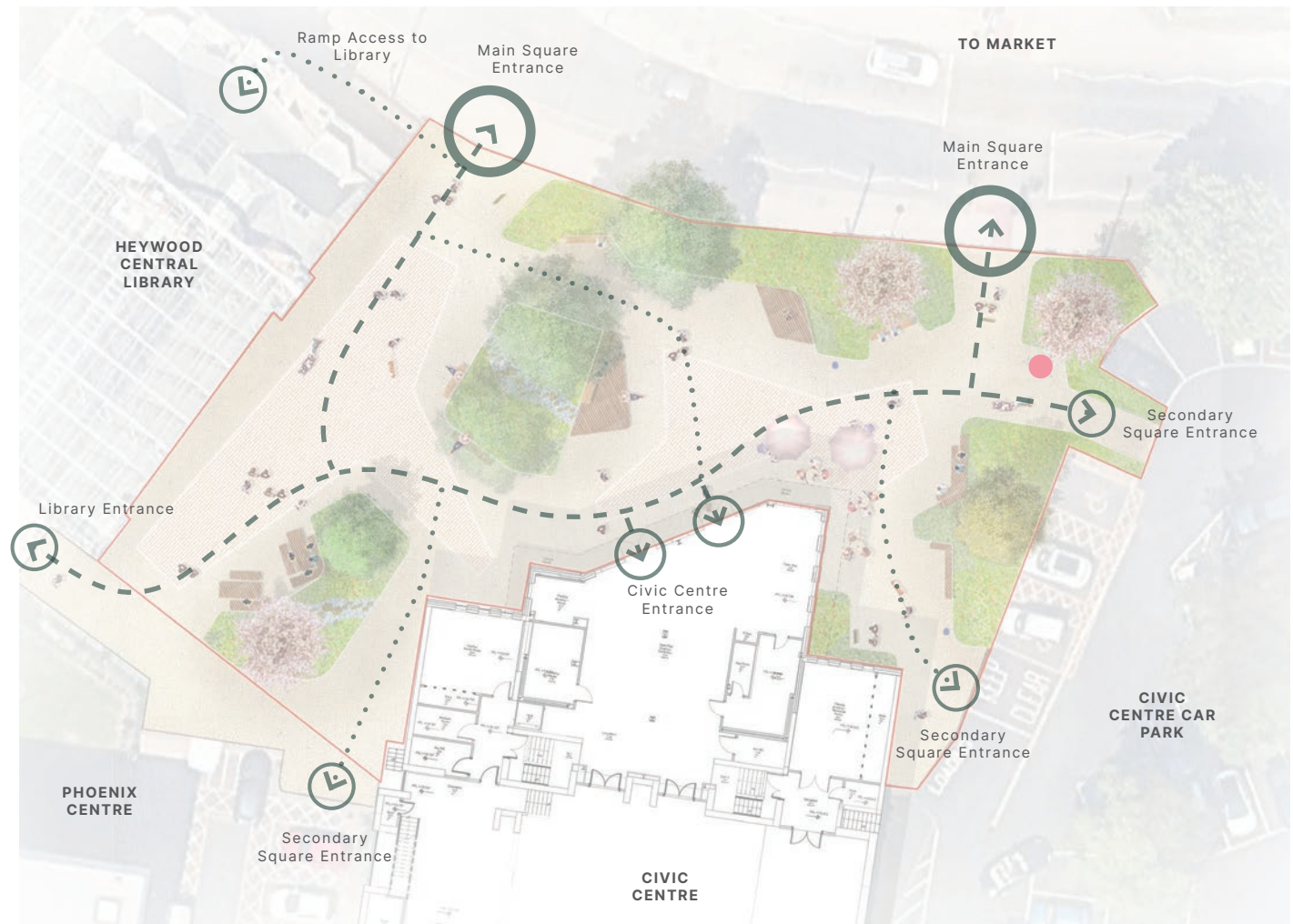
Access & Circulation Strategy

Key design principles

- Retain key routes through the square and integrate the entrance of the new civic centre
- Improve access to the square from the adjacent car park through an additional secondary entrance
- Improve accessibility and navigation through the square for all users by replacing uneven paved surfaces
- Encourage active travel through the incorporation of cycle storage

Key

- ← — Proposed Pedestrian Primary Routes
- ← ... Proposed Pedestrian Secondary Routes
- Key Arrival Points
- Proposed 6no Cycle Parking Spaces



Accessibility Strategy

Key design principles

- A DDA compliant layout that avoids steps and other obstacles featuring even paving that is easy to navigate for all levels of mobility
- Access routes to existing disabled parking areas preserved / enhanced
- An inclusive planting strategy that considers more than simply aesthetics but also scent, sound and touch
- Seating and furniture featuring arm and back rests as well as furniture designed with wheelchair users in mind

Key

-  DDA compliant paved areas
-  Existing disabled parking areas
-  Indicative DDA compliant routes
-  Benches with arm and back rests
-  Wheelchair inclusive furniture



Fall & Drainage Strategy

Key design principles

- Integrate with Existing Levels: Ensure new levels align seamlessly with external streets and new entrances
- Incorporate Rain Gardens: Direct water runoff into planting areas whenever possible to promote natural absorption
- Preserve Existing Tree Levels: Maintain the current levels around established trees to protect their root systems and support their health
- Manage Water Flow: Drain water away from building edges

Key

- Proposed Surface Water Flow
- ▤ Proposed Drainage Channel
- () Existing Trees to be Retained
- Proposed SUDs



Event Space Strategy

The design allows for two flexible spaces that can hold joint or separate events. There is ample space for a mix of events, an example of which is shown opposite.

A: Central informal stage area

Circa **250m²** accommodating around **500** people

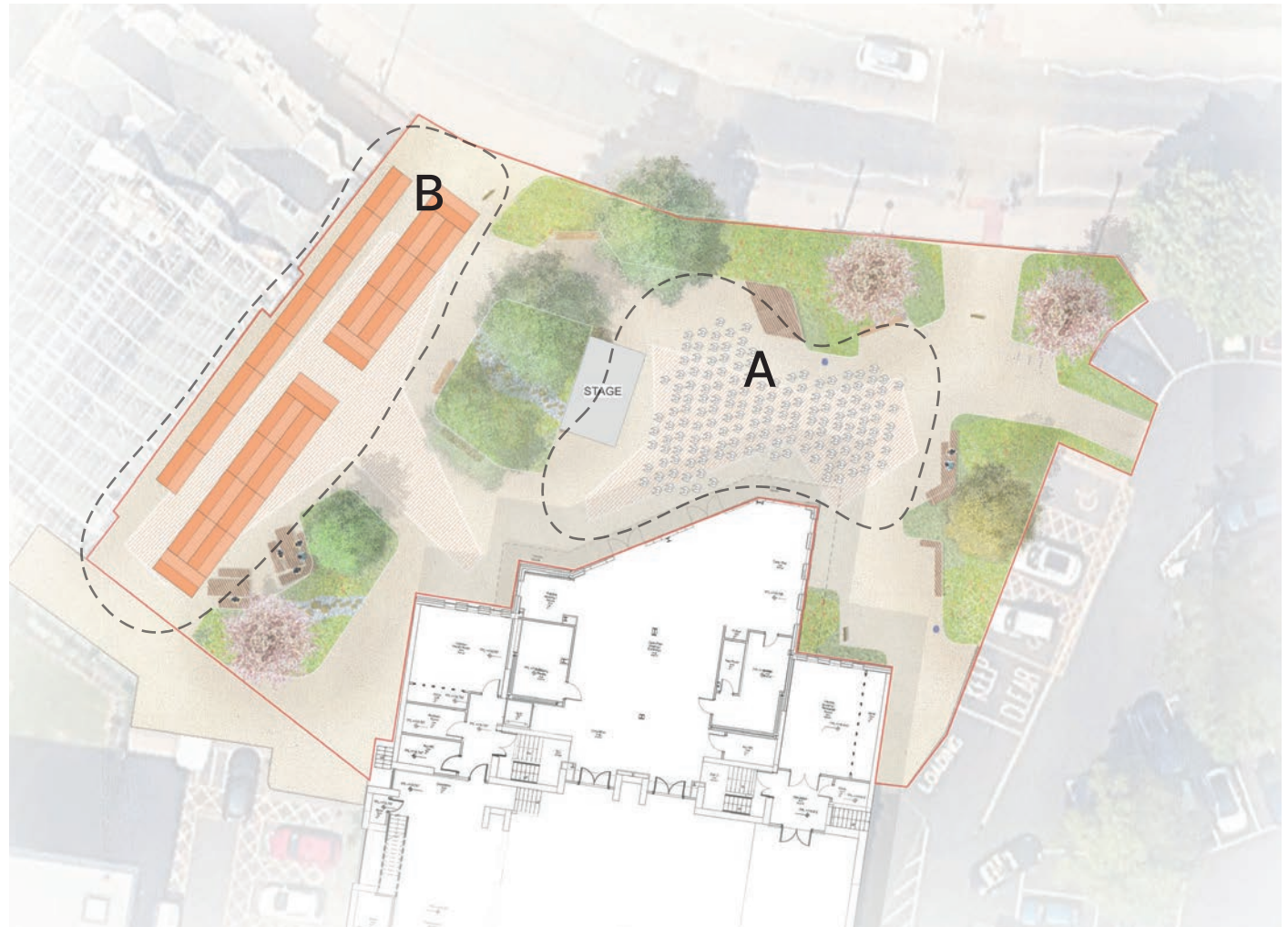
B: East flexible market space

Circa **360m²** and could take approximate 25 market stalls (based on 3 x 1.5m) & **480** people

C: Total flexible space

(whole square area excluding planting beds)

Circa **980m²** accommodating around **1,960** people



Maintenance Access Strategy

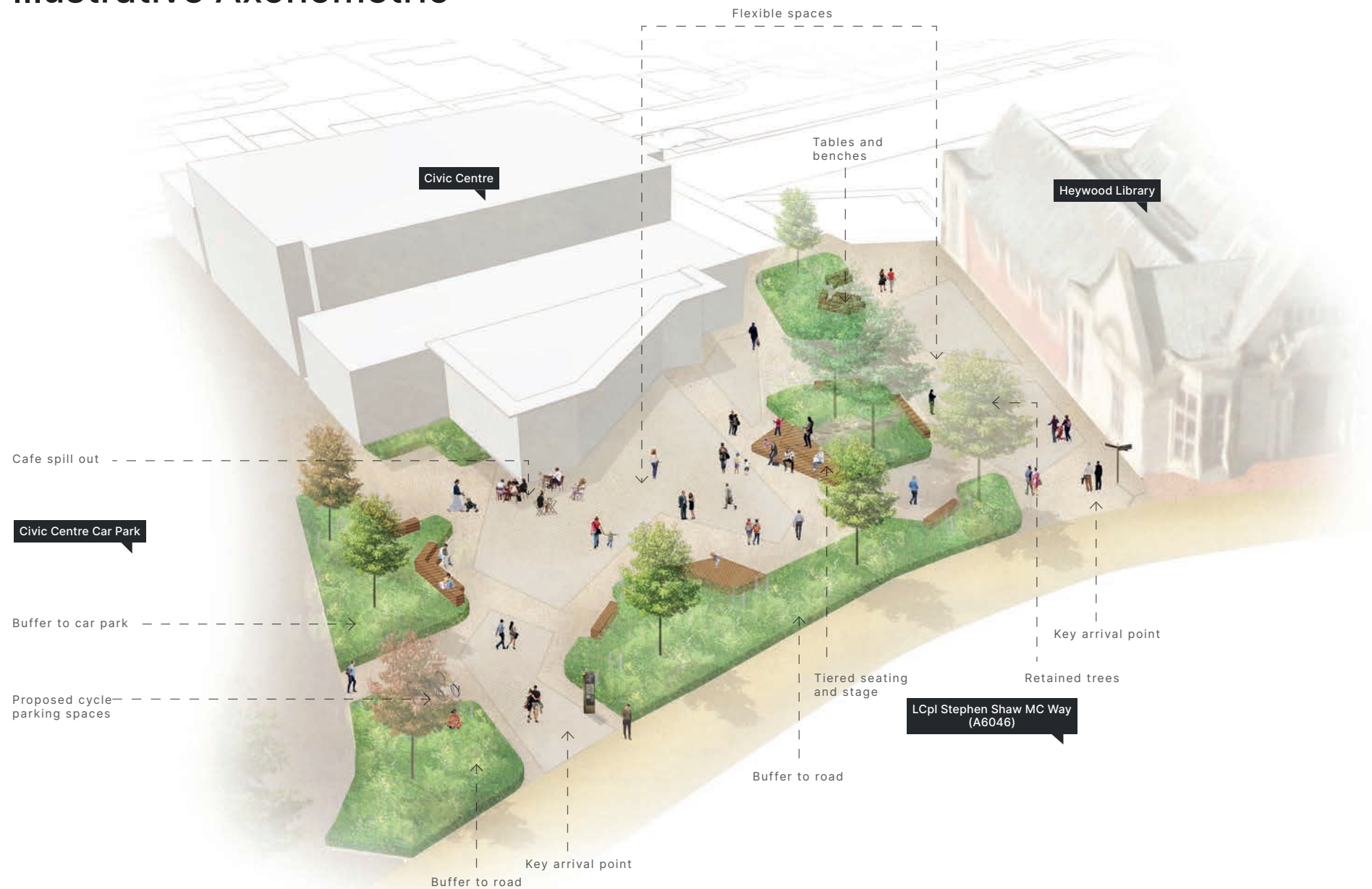
To accommodate vehicular access to the square for events, access via telescopic bollards is provided. In addition, hard landscaping within the square is rated for vehicular loading.

Key

- ← - Proposed Vehicular Access Routes (for events only)
- Proposed Vehicular Access (via Telescopic Bollard)
- Existing Loading Bay (located in Civic Centre Car Park)
- Access Control by Fixed bollards



Illustrative Axonometric



Artistic Impression



Design Solutions: Responding to Secured by Design

Secured by Design is the official UK Police security initiative that works to improve the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings to provide safe places to live, work and play. The proposal has integrated this advice in the following ways:

Visibility

The proposed square features open sight lines throughout the space in order to increase the level of surveillance of not only the square itself, but also the surrounding buildings, helping to deter criminals by making them feel more vulnerable to detection. This is achieved by lifting the existing tree canopies and by ensuring all specified planting is predominately low growing.

Preventing anti-social behaviour

Cycle parking has been located in a well-lit and prominent location, visible from all directions in order to deter theft. In addition, recycling and general waste bins have been located in multiple locations in order to prevent littering. All cycle parking and refuse collection furniture will be of a durable and hard wearing design to resist vandalism and theft.

Clearly defined and secure boundaries

The boundaries of the proposed Heywood Square are secured with a series of bollards at all access points. These include both fixed and telescopic types in order to maintain security while also ensuring controlled access at times when required. Boundaries are also clearly defined through generous defensible planting beds featuring robust species.

Durability

Furniture and materials specified for the square will be hard wearing and durable in order to resist vandalism. The long-term maintenance requirements and needs of the maintenance team also factor into the suitability of all chosen furniture and materials.

A well lit space

In addition to low level bollard and mood lighting, the square will include a number of lighting columns to illuminate the space.

5 PRECEDENTS

Flexible Spaces

Opportunities to enjoy the square with flexibility...

Tiered seating could serve as performance space for events



Temporary market with mobile table and chairs



Mini stage - also serves as low seating for children



Cafe spill-out area



Outdoor art exhibition



Outdoor cinema or Heywood sports day

Storytelling

Opportunities to tell Heywood's stories...

Potential to engrave Heywood maps on paving



Heywood history or story trails on paving



Heywood trail with artefacts or art works incorporated into paving

Historic and cultural information integrated in street furniture



Artworks on metal studs incorporated within paving



Finger post sign with wayfinding



Opportunity to create Heywood branding with a unique symbol specific to Heywood



Wayfinding totem

Play

Opportunities to play...

Potential to incorporate artworks in paving with designs by community groups



Accessible picnic table and seating hugged in planting beds with informal play elements



Hopscotch integrated in soft landscape

Play boulders also provide alternative seating options



Stepping logs within soft landscape

Nature

Opportunities to get close to nature...

Planting with seasonal interest and multi-stem flowering trees



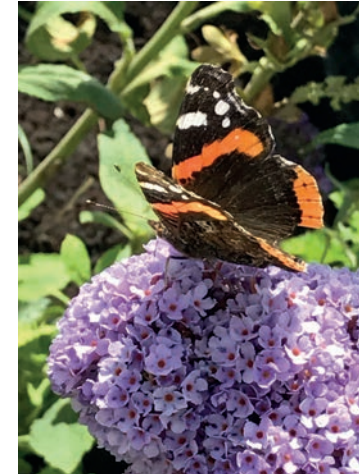
Information for Heywood In Bloom



Bird boxes & insect hotel



Pollinator friendly plant species



Planting as safety buffer to roads



Furniture

Opportunities to rest...

Benches with armrest and backrests



Historic and cultural information integrated in street furniture



Inclusive seating to ensure everyone can sit together comfortably



Benches with informal table



Benches with extra chunky slats to increase robustness and resistance to vandalism



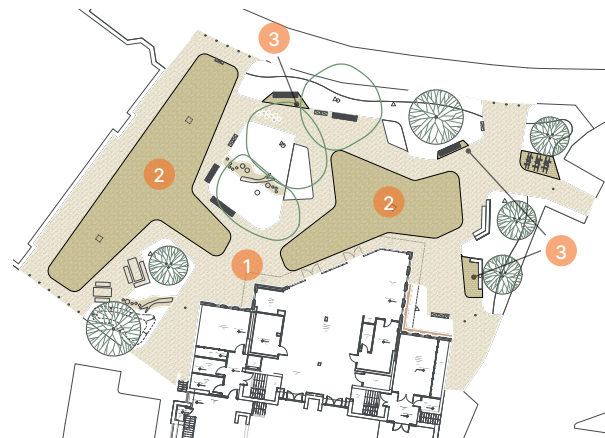
Seating nestled in planting to offer a quieter resting option

6 STRATEGIES

Hardworks Strategy

Main Square

To ensure the square is prepared for potential future events, a simple and durable materials palette will be utilised, capable of withstanding light traffic during event day



Resin-bound Gravel



- Permeable
- Low maintenance
- Good durability
- Suitable for light vehicular use

Resin-bound gravel presents a cost effective and attractive surface material for throughout the square. Available in a range of colours, this material will blend with both existing heritage buildings, the new, modern Civic Centre extension in addition to the public realm interfaces with surrounding pavements

Clay Pavers



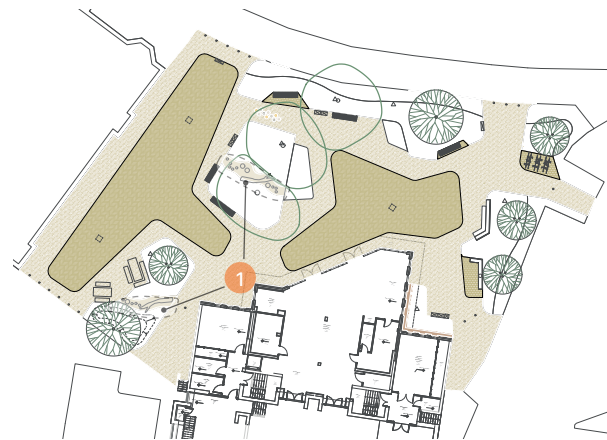
- Permeable
- Low maintenance
- Good durability
- Suitable for light vehicular use

In response to the envisaged demands of the square, the use of clay pavers to the central areas will provide a durable and long-lasting surface. The pavers will be robust and capable of withstanding vehicular activity

Clay pavers in a complementary colour/ pattern will accent seating areas

Play Strategy

Small, informal play elements will be incorporated into planting areas in order to encourage engagement with younger visitors the square

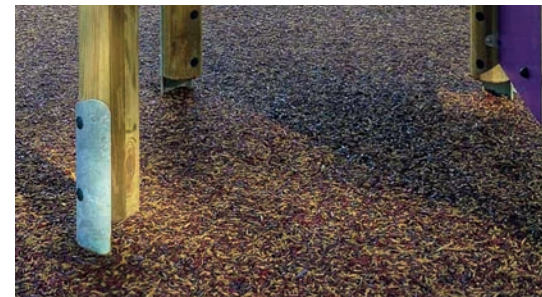


Discoverable Play Elements



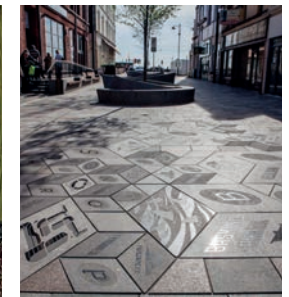
Situated within planting areas, these elements are fun for children to explore yet remain somewhat hidden and unobtrusive when not in use. Play elements include wooden logs and stumps, both of which could be created using wood from removed trees on site

Rubber Mulch



Bonded Rubber Mulch will provide a soft surface in and around the play paths. Incorporating a bonding agent, the mulch will be hard-wearing and stay in place, thus reducing maintenance

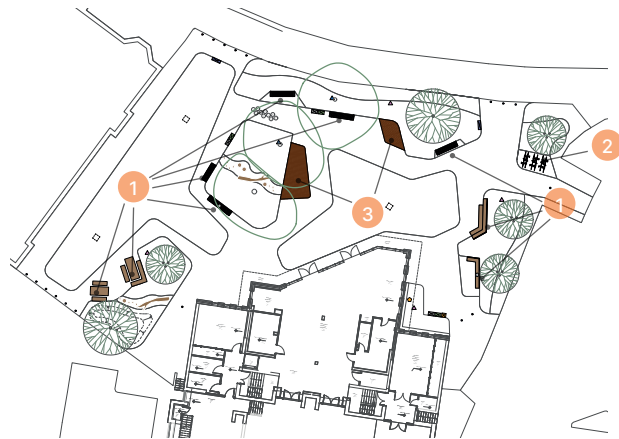
Stone Inlays



Other play elements will be created with stone inlays within the paved areas. I.e. Hopscotch

Furniture Strategy

To satisfy the needs of all users, a range of seating options will be specified for the square. All seating options will be wooden, ensuring durability, ease of maintenance and comfort for visitors throughout the year



Cycle Parking Provision

Total cycle provision:
7 cycle hoops (14 spaces)

Comprised of:

Proposed additional:
3 cycle hoops (6 spaces)

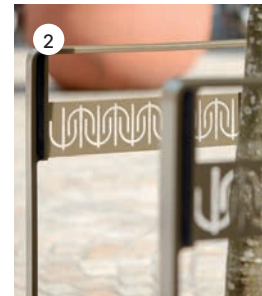
Existing:
4 cycle hoops (8 spaces)

Timber Benches



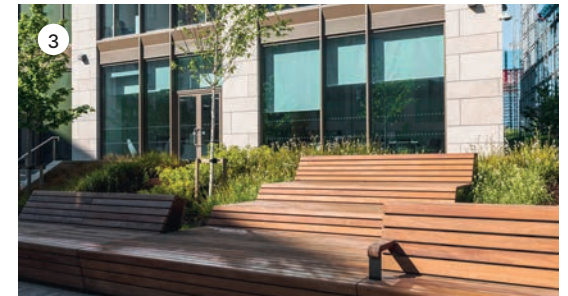
Wooden benches offer a cost effective and low maintenance seating solution suitable for use year round. A variety of bench types, including those with armrests and back support, informal seating for groups and picnic benches will be incorporated throughout the square catering to all users. All specified benches will be robust and low-maintenance

Cycle Parking



Simple, low-maintenance cycle parking hoops made from a robust and hard wearing metal

Composite Multi-purpose Seating/Staging



Bespoke, multi-purpose furniture offering both casual seating as well as staging for events will create a focal point within the square. Made from a composite material the seating/staging will be long lasting and hard wearing

Lighting Strategy

To provide security and extend the use of the square into the evenings, a range of lighting types including column lights, accent and mood lighting will be specified. These will be supplemented with wall mounted units attached to surrounding buildings



Column Lights



Column lighting will offer a practical and cost effective source of illumination throughout the square, both for general security and during evening events

Bollard Lighting



Bollard lighting located within planted areas will supplement column lighting

Linear Lighting



Subtle mood-lighting at ground level will be used to accent seating areas and illuminate the paved areas

Gobo Lighting



Providing the ability to decorate with light, particularly useful during events and holidays

Softworks Strategy

Tree Removal & Retention

As part of the separate Heywood Civic Centre works, two trees will be removed to construct the new entrance. To mitigate this loss, the remaining specimens have been incorporated into the proposed design for the new Heywood Square



Retained Trees



T3: Lime; Moderate/fair quality; 10m

T4: Birch; Good/moderately good condition; 9-10m

T5: Birch; Good/moderately good condition; 10m

Removed Trees



G6: Fastigate birch (x2), Fastigate cherry (x6), Mountain ash cultivar (x3); Moderate/fair quality; Heights 3-4m (where possible some will be relocated)

T1: Sycamore; Moderate/fair quality; Height 10m

T2: Sycamore; Moderate/fair quality; Height 10-11m

Softworks Strategy

Tree Planting

The proposed design features a number of new trees incorporated throughout the square. The species chosen will suit local climate and will be of a high quality to ensure longevity and health into maturity



Multi-stem Trees



Multi-stem trees will be selected for their ability to provide both visual and acoustic screening to the area of the square adjacent to the car park. These will be of varieties tolerant to the local climate, ensuring long-term health and vigour

Single-stem Trees



Semi-mature tree species that are tolerant to the local climate will be selected to create continuity alongside the retained mature specimens. These will help to define the space and provide a degree of shelter

Softworks Strategy

Planting Characters

The square will include a number of typologies including rain gardens and mixed perennial and evergreen planting



Mixed Planting



- Biodiversity
- Year-round interest
- Low maintenance

Planting will be used to help define the character of the space and its many uses. A vibrant mix of species will be selected that promote biodiversity and offer year-round interest for visitors. Planting will be specified to be low-maintenance and suitable for the local conditions

Barrier Planting



- Year-round structure
- Low maintenance
- Security & protection

The boundary of the square will be bordered with a mix of planting chosen to provide structure and help protect the square from visual and acoustic intrusion from neighbouring roads

Rain Garden



A rain garden located between the Civic and Phoenix Centres will collect excess surface water from the square

Softworks Strategy

Proposed Species Mixes

Key

- Evergreen Species
- Perennial Species

Ornamental (in sun) Planting Mix

1. *Verbena bonariensis* ●
2. *Salvia rosmarinus* 'Miss Jessopp's Upright' ●
3. *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Golf Ball' ●
4. *Kniphofia* 'Ice Queen' ●
5. *Pachysandra terminalis* 'Green Carpet' ●
6. *Perovskia* 'Little Spire' ●
7. *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna' ●

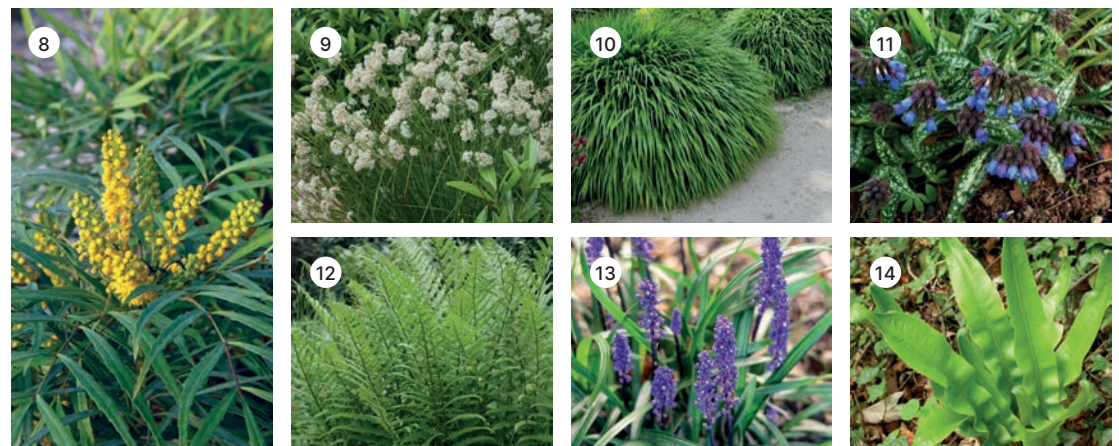
Ornamental (in shade) Planting Mix

8. *Mahonia* 'Soft Caress' ●
9. *Luzula nivea* ●
10. *Hakonechloa macra* 'Greenhills' ●
11. *Pulmonaria* 'Trevi Fountain' ●
12. *Dryopteris filix-mas* ●
13. *Liriope muscari* 'Royal Purple' ●
14. *Asplenium scolopendrium* ●

Ornamental (in sun) Planting Mix



Ornamental (in shade) Planting Mix



Softworks Strategy

Proposed Species Mixes

Key

- Evergreen Species
- Perennial Species

Rain Garden Planting

1. *Rudbeckia* 'Goldsturm' ●
2. *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Whirling Butterflies' ●
3. *Verbena bonariensis* ●
4. *Persicaria bistorta* 'Superba' ●
5. *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna' ●
6. *Carex foliosissima* 'Irish Green' ●
7. *Achillea millefolium* ●

Barrier Planting

8. *Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken' ●
9. *Sarcococca confusa* ●
10. *Viburnum davidii* ●
11. *Pinus mugo* 'Pumilio' ●

Bulb Underplanting

12. *Allium nigrum* ●
13. *Nerine bowdenii* 'Vesta' ●
14. *Narcissus* 'White Lion' ●
15. *Galanthus nivalis* ●

Rain Garden Planting



Barrier Planting



We design for the living world.
For today, tomorrow and 200 years.



Leeds

+44 (0)113 824 6413

Liverpool

+44 (0)151 363 1230

London

+44 (0)207 253 5678

Manchester

+44 (0)161 928 9281

Standish

+44 (0)1453 607080

PLANIT



planit-ie.com

Manchester | Leeds | Liverpool | London | Standish