

# Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections

Easy Read Public consultation brochure  
22nd January - 1st March 2024

This brochure outlines the Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections project proposals. It also outlines the potential benefits and impacts of these proposals.

These proposals are early ideas - we are asking for your input so that they can be considered for the next stages of design.

To provide feedback on the proposals you can complete the survey on the link below. The equalities impact assessment is also available on this link.

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/hastings-greenconnections/>



# Section 1: Project Background

## Background

The Hastings Public Realm and Green Connections project is one of seven projects within the Hastings Town Investment Plan. The project sets out early ideas to improve public spaces in our town centre and make the area more green, attractive and healthy.

We think these plans will improve the use of the town centre and make it a place for people to mingle, meet, play, shop and live.

We want your views on these ideas and value your contributions to the project. This public consultation is an opportunity to provide feedback on the early design ideas shown in this brochure.

The money available may not cover the entire scheme, so construction may be phased. But we want your feedback on the entire area.

## The project aims to:

1. Develop safe, vibrant and inclusive public spaces. Promote active travel via walking, wheeling and cycling.
2. Encourage better use of public spaces with more seating and more room for public art.
3. Promote biodiversity (the variety of all living things) and plants. Help contribute to the wellbeing of people and protect against a changing climate.

## What are we trying to do with Hastings Public Realm and Green Connections?

1. Create a healthy town centre which improves social connectivity, air quality and active travel (walking, cycling and wheeling)
2. Build a town identity, preserving heritage, character and charm of the town
3. Improve ease of travel throughout the town with clear signage
4. Include community input into the design
5. Create distinct destinations for activity
6. Consider nature in design

## Work to date and future programme

### What have we done so far?

#### Planning and concept design

- Early 2022 : Engaged with key stakeholders to inform designs
- 24/01/24 : Concepts developed

## Where we are now?

Public and stakeholder engagement, 22 January - 1 March 2024

- Technical transport modelling to understand how the designs will impact on local traffic.
- Stakeholder workshops to gather feedback on the designs
- 22/01/24: Public consultation begins. Survey launched.
- 27/01/24: Public exhibition (Priory Meadow)
- 06/02/24: Public exhibition (Priory Meadow)
- 21/02/24 : Pop-ups at local supermarkets (ASDA, Tesco)
- 01/03/24: Public consultation closes at 11.59pm

More detail about these events can be found on the link below.

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/hastings-greenconnections/>

## What will we do next?

Detailed design stage

- March - May 2024 : We will input feedback from the public and stakeholders into the designs
- Summer 2024: We will submit a planning application
- 2025- 2026 : we will potentially start construction

# Section 2: North to south connection

## Connecting north to south

This proposal aims to connect parts of Hastings Town through safer and more effective walking, cycling and wheeling routes. This will include clearer signage, safer crossings and less traffic.

## Proposed changes to travel routes

Bringing these designs to life will mean some changes to how people move around the area. The designs include significant improvements for people walking and cycling, but to do this there will be some changes to vehicle movement patterns.

This includes potential changes to bus routes in the town centre, so that new car-free areas can be delivered in and around Harold Place.

### The current proposals include:

- A new dedicated bus and cycle lane on Queens Road
- Removal of general traffic from Havelock Road/ Harold Place, with northbound only buses on Havelock Road
- New and improved pedestrian crossings throughout the town centre
- Separated cycle lane connecting the station to the seafront
- A new surface-level crossing to the seafront from Harold Place across the A259

#### **What this means:**

- Relocation of Harold Place bus stops to Havelock Road and rerouting of some bus services through other parts of the town centre
- Potential removal of the existing taxi rank on Havelock Road. A strategy for the re-provision of taxi rank spaces will be developed, based on the outcomes of the consultation and data about usage of the existing taxi rank.
- Possible removal of available on-street motorcycle and disabled car parking bays between Harold Place / Pelham Street. The current usage of those spaces and outcomes of the consultation will be reviewed and will inform the final design. Qualified experts will work with the design team to make sure accessibility is being considered.

## **Havelock Road**

At Havelock Road we are prioritising active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling) and connecting the station to the seafront.

#### **The current proposals include:**

1. More tree planting
2. Wider pavements
3. Safer crossings for pedestrians
4. A separate cycle lane
5. More street lighting to promote safety

## **Harold Place**

At Harold Place, we want to create a pedestrian space with play areas and more seating. We want to better connect the town to the seafront with safer crossings and more integrated spaces.

#### **The current proposals include:**

1. New pavements
2. Rock features for playing
3. Two-way cycle lane
4. Surface water drainage systems
5. Pedestrian spaces
6. Places to meet
7. Shingle bank to the sea
8. Trees and planting suitable for the environment

## **Section 3: East to west connection**

### **Connecting east to west**

The project looks to improve east-west movement across the town and introducing additional planting and creating green links between open spaces.

# Wellington Place

We want to improve east-west movement across the town and introduce additional planting.

## **The current proposals include:**

1. Playful bench framing central space
2. Feature tree
3. Buffer parking
4. Cycle parking
5. Planting bed
6. More tree planting
7. Stepped and ramped access

## The central area

This plan aims to define the central area of the town as a new destination. This could be a space designed for flexible use that could accommodate a range of activities, such as pop-up events, activities and festivals.

The designs include more seating, open space and public art. To help protect against a changing climate, additional planting and greening measures will help to reduce the impacts of surface water flooding.

(The Central area is where Wellington Place, Harold Place, Robertson Street, Havelock Road and Queens Road meet)

Here we want to create more for you and your family to do, see and enjoy in the town centre

## **The current proposals include:**

1. New green space and planting
2. Outdoor seating
3. More public art
4. Outdoor market space
5. Resurfaced footway
6. Separate two-way cycle lane

## Section 4: Have your say

We want your views on the proposed plans as part of the Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections Project.

Your views are important to us, and this public consultation is an opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the latest plans to help shape the detailed design stage.

The consultation is open from the 22nd January 2024 to the 1st March 2024. **You will have until 11:59pm on 1st March to respond to the survey.**

## How to have your say

You can complete our online consultation survey and find out more information by visiting:

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/hastingsgreenconnections/>

## Where to find the survey

Paper copies of the brochure and survey will be available at all public consultation events. If you would like to request a paper copy of the survey or have any questions and comments in relation to Hastings Town Centre Public Realm and Green Connections, you can contact us via:

Email: [HastingsGreenConnections@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:HastingsGreenConnections@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Phone: 07514721387

## In-person sessions

There are a number of in-person drop in events during the consultation period. The project team will be able to answer your questions and provide you with more information about the proposed schemes.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10:00-16:00**, Priory Meadow Shopping Centres, TN34 1PH

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 12:00 - 17:00** Priory Meadow Shopping Centres, TN34 1PH

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** Pop-ups at local supermarkets

**13:00-15:30** ASDA, Battle Road, TN37 7AA

**16:00-18:00** Tesco, Church Wood Drive, TN38 9RB

## Stay informed

You can stay informed about the Hastings Public Spaces and Green Connections project by visiting:

[www.hastingstowndeal.co.uk/town-centre-public-realm-green-connections](http://www.hastingstowndeal.co.uk/town-centre-public-realm-green-connections)

### **Hastings Town Deal**

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