### Allotments in Chichester

Allotments are popular. Chichester has a waiting list of 259 (Sept 2021) hoping for a plot to become vacant.

As with the management of any asset, it is useful, periodically, to revisit and reorient to reflect contemporary and changing conditions.

Tension can occur between plot holders and allotment managers when it is perceived that communication has broken down, or that one or other party is in a "not listening" mode.

This, unfortunately, seems to have been the case with the circulation of a "three strikes and you're out" change of policy letter sent by the management team at Chichester City Council (CCC) which some plot holders have perceived as being draconian and perhaps a comment on how they cultivate their plots and which seems to have been introduced without consultation with plot holders or city councillors.

It might be apposite here to consider elements of management practice and discuss how it might move forward.

Some plot holders have been perturbed and upset to receive what they consider to peremptory 'notice to quit' or 'three strikes' letters. Sometimes these have been interpreted as tantamount to a bullying stance by the management team. This is unfortunate; a more positive approach would be to set up a 'review committee' where proposed changes could be communicated to elected city councillors and representatives of the allotment holders (through, for instance, the allotment associations) for discussion and refinement before being communicated to all.

Such a framework has the potential to enhance relationships

**Commented [PR1]:** Communication has not broken down. By far the majority of plot holders are more than happy with the way we manage the allotments. A small minority who think they can do what they like and don't like us enforcing the rules, have complained to Polly. Polly should not allow herself to be used to undermine Officers by a small but very vocal disruptive minority.

**Commented [PR2]:** Again "some plot holders". Many welcomed the implementation of the "three strikes" rule as a way of dealing with the small number of persistent offenders who repeatedly allow their plot to become uncultivated and do just enough to keep it when they receive an uncultivated notice.

**Commented [PR3]:** As the landlord, surely CCC has the right to comment on how tenants cultivate the plot and insist on compliance with the tenancy agreement?

**Commented [PR4]:** That phrase again. Read as "a very small minority who don't like having to comply with the terms of the tenancy".

**Commented [PR6]:** This would add yet another layer of costly and time consuming administration. We must trust the judgement of our Officer who is a qualified horticulturalist.

between management and plot holders. If discussion with all parties is undertaken before changes are made then there is more chance of a 'buy-in' from all concerned.

This, perhaps, is the crux of the issue. Many plot holders derive both physical and mental health benefits from working on their allotment and can suffer unnecessary worry and upset if they think that they might be 'turned off' from their plot by a harsh inspection regime. Whilst some others (a very small minority) have allowed/used their plot to 'store' other items/waste thereby becoming anti-social plot holders and a burden/expense for CCC to deal with.

The balance must be found in communicating with all plot holders that they can utilise their plot as they see fit but that 'abuse of rules and guidelines' can ultimately end with an eviction notice.

#### Allotment Rules and Guidelines

Some plot holders have been upset and perturbed by the seemingly overbearing stance of some of the communications from the management team at CCC. I am sure that this is not intentional and the team at CCC have a long history of dealing successfully with a very small minority of plot holders who have no intention of 'playing by the rules' and have caused problems and expense for the team by having to deal with, for instance, dumped household waste and other detritus. Such behaviour is not only an added expense for CCC but causes problems for the rests of the plot holders.

I would like to make some suggestions as to how the existing Rules and Guidelines might be usefully revised.

Page 1: "Please note the council has a zero tolerance policy ... which will be punished by immediate expulsion ..."

I would suggest 'punished' is replace with 'dealt with'

Page 2: At present 'Notice of Termination of Tenancy' is subsumed under 'Inspections'. I would suggest that Termination Policy becomes a separate heading with the updated 'Three strikes' policy (notice to quit) inserted here with 'Confirmation of tenancy **Commented [PR7]:** There isn't a general problem with communication between officers and tenants. A small minority just don't want to be subject to the rules.

**Commented [PR8]:** We inspect twice during the growing season. The inspections are carried out by an experienced, qualified, Brinsby trained horticulturalist who is more than capable, without the assistance of a committee, to discern between a cultivated and uncultivated plot.

**Commented [PR9]:** I will review the letters, tenancy agreement and Rules and Guidelines document and alter any wording that might appear to be confrontational or harsh.



termination' procedures.

#### Inspection Regime

#### 1) Frequency

Currently plots are inspected 12 times a year which does seem quite frequent. Allotment holders from other parts of the country who have been consulted have been surprised that CCC can afford monthly inspections. A small number of Chichester plot holders are concerened about the frequency of the present inspection regime in relation to the 'three strikes' policy.

The new rules seem particularly unfair when the exact date of each inspection is not known. One of the plot holders has pointed out that, when walking along the field to their plot on any one day there might be four or five plots which could be deemed to merit a 'letter of concern' from CCC, but that a few days later time would have been found for a 'tidy up on the allotment. It, therefore, seems unfair that they might receive one of the 'three strikes' letters soley because they tidied their plot a few days after, rather than before, any said inspection.

It would be useful to communicate the schedule for inspections to plot holders. This would improve relations between CCC and plot holders.

A quarterly inspection regime on preannounced dates would seem a fairer way of making sure that allotments are kept in a satisfactory state and would also cut down on CCC staff time and costs.

#### 2) Inspection Criteria

Differing ideas of plot cultivation can also be an area of tension. The issue seems to be one of perception and how an individual cultivates their plot and what they deem important to produce from it.

The original Allotment Act (1922) states:

"wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetables and fruit crops for consumption by himself and his

**Commented [PR10]:** We undertake 2 inspections per year, in April and September.

**Commented [SH11]:** Plot are meant to kept tidy all year round. A small number of plot holders would cultivate the plot for these selective dates only if there were giving inspection dates. If I notice a plot or if other plot holders complain about an overgrown plot we should be able to send an uncultivated letter the same day or send a polite email asking if there is a problem which i have done numerous amounts of times. An uncultivated letter is only sent if they are a repeat offenders or the plot is clearly neglected.

**Commented [SH12]:** Uncultivated letters are sent within 24 hours. If they have provided emails they recieve it the same day. If it has to be posted then there is a day or 2 delay due to Royal Mail having to deliver the letter.

**Commented [SH13]:** No one to date has received this letter as the simple threat has worked and the repeat offenders are now attending their plot more regularly, so this worked with immediate affect.

family",

However it is apparant (from internet searches) that many councils in England do not feel the necessity to adhere strictly to this policy. Within the allotments in Chichester some are being used exclusively to grow flowers, which is an entirely legimate use. However we need to fair and consistent, if we are happy to allow this for one plot holder, penalties cannot be meted out to another for devoting, say, 25% to flower growing.

I think it important to recognise that both sides (management and plot holders) have legitimate and meaningful concerns that need addressing in a spirit of moving to a position of supportive cooperation.

I think it would be useful to establish a clear demarcation.

A) Some plots have, for a variety of reasons, been allowed to degenerate into an uncared for/unproductive plot, where perhaps, unsuitable items have been 'stored' only to become dumping grounds for other amounts of rubbish and consuequently a costly and unsightly mess for CCC to clear up. These areas must be cleared or they will affect all plot holders who are cultivating/maintaining their plots in a productive manner.

The management team at CCC will always listen to and be willing to enter into individual arrangements where plot holders find themselves unable to attend their plot for a variety of reasons, some of which could include the following:

- a) Change in personal/family circumstances
- b) Personal or family illness or incapacitation
- c) Normal holidays/time away periods
- d) Other unforseen but legitimate reasons

However, it is not always possible for the plot holders to inform the management team in advance that they have outside issues that make it difficult to visit their plots.

If the cost of tidying abandoned or misused plots is placing an unreasonable financial burden on CCC, perhaps a deposit scheme could be considered, where plot holders lodge a year's rent with the **Commented [PR14]:** According to the definition from the Allotment Act 1922, this is not an "entirely legitimate use" of allotment land. In at least one case, we discovered that the plot holder growing flowers on his plot was then selling his flowers at market. Is it legitimate to profit from a publicly subsidised plot of land?

**Commented [PR15]:** We have no objection to some flowers being grown on plots, provided fruit and veg is being cultivated as well.

**Commented [SH16]:** When i carry out allotment viewings for new tenants I go through a selection of the allotment rules. One bullet point is flowers. I say flowers are allowed, but please spread them out and do not allocate to a large area as this upsets people who would like to use that area for growing produce. I've had lots of complaints that tenants should grow flowers in their own garden and not on the allotments as people on the waiting list could use that area.

**Commented [SH17]:** Can you please show me these plots/areas. I am unaware of any areas that are unused or dumping grounds. These areas were all cleared over 2 years ago!

**Commented [SH18]:** There are currenly 5 uncultivated plots which are under consistent review due to tenant health problems. The plot holders are keeping me up to date with gardeners helping/friends and family. All these plot holders know they will not be evicted as long as the work is carried out and keep in communication with my self.

**Commented [PR19]:** The initial uncultivated letter says exactly that.

**Commented [PR20]:** Noted, but by the same token they must then understand that we don't have a crystal ball so will send an uncultivated notice, as per the procedures.

council, to be returned if their plot is in a satisfactory condition when they relinquish it. If the deposit is not returnable it could be used to contribute to the cost of readying the plot for the next tenant.

**B)** Perceptions of how some plots are cultivated. This is the area where most miscommunication can occur and where the rules and guidelines may need reassessing and rewording.

#### Increasing bio-diversity

We are facing a bio-diversity crisis<mark>; habitats for all wildlife are being destroyed/lost at unprecedented rates.</mark>

There is a real need to have areas of allotments be able to become part of 'wildlife corridoors' that can weave into larger areas that wildlife can utilise.

To this end some plot holders are aware and anxious to play their part in encouraging diverse wildlife to live in as unhindered a way as possible, within the confines of an allotment. It is now emerging that some 'traditional' gardening methods, which undoubtedly keep plots tidy, are detrimental to bio-diversity, soil health, carbon capture and even air quality (see below).

So we need a fundamental reappraisal of the sort of allotment management we should be aiming for. There is increasing evidence that digging destroys soil structure and decreases its ability to store carbon, as well as being bad for earthworms, soil mychorrizal fungi and many other invertebrates. Also soil left bare may look 'tidy' but causes increased carbon release into the atmosphere. We need to be aware that to improve soil health digging should be minimised and to remember that coverage by vegetation is valuable not only for pollinators and other wildlife but also for carbon capture and storage, and to prevent nutrient leaching. Perhaps plot holders should be encouraged to leave 'green manures' in the form of noninvasive weeds and wild flowers or any species that will not cause a problem for neighbouring plot holders. Plants (sometimes perceived as weeds) are capable of fulfilling such a role if managed correctly, for instance, by being cut down and disposed of responsibly before setting seed and becoming a possible annovance to other plot holders. Species such as white deadnettle, scarlet pimpernel, garlic mustard, hedge woundwort, white campion, poppies and foxgloves

**Commented [SH21]:** Many plot holders have paid a £50 deposit. So far only one deposit has been refused which caused an internal investigations.

**Commented [SH22]:** Surely this is a matter for planning officers and central goverment. Plenty of pollination is happening on allotments. Our council is not responsible for destroying green areas.

**Commented [PR23]:** Indeed...and action is only taken when they are not being managed properly and are beginning to cause a nuisance to neighbouring plots.

can be very helpful to wildlife, as can many non-natives such as forget-me-not which can be a useful green carpet.

Defra states that to protect soils, growers should 'maintain green cover on the land for as much of the year as possible' (Ref 'Protecting our water, soil and air: a code for Good Agricultural Practice for farmers, growers and land managers' DEFRA 2009)

We may be unwittingly causing air pollution by other 'traditional' cultivation techniques. Plot holders may not be aware that to minimise ammonia loss from animal manure into the air, the manure should be incorporated into the soil as soon as possible and at the latest within 24 hours (Ref, as above).

In some areas allotment managers have set up working relationships with local wildlife organisations where bird and bat boxes have been established together with wildlife friendly cultivation practices. Such sites might already contain hedgerows, mature trees etc., Cambridgshire and the London boroughs of Bexley, Hounslow and Sutton are such examples. Slow-worms, hedgehogs and frogs are the gardener's companion, subsisting largely on a diet of slugs so surely must be encouraged!

Of course it is down to the individual allotment holder as to how they cultivate their plot but with so much information and examples of how to grow in a 'wildlife friendly' and soil supportive way perhaps more information and 'sign-posts' to organic/bio-dynamic cultivation would be a positive move.

Chichester Organic Gardening Society (COGS) have a wealth of information and experience in producing crops with this approach and are more than willing to share, they also host a range of useful talks at their monthly meetings. www.chicogs.org.uk

#### Communal Compost

I have to agree with the Property Manager on this point. Communal

composting schemes have been trialled (Florence Road site) and found to be a burden on the CCC team to deal with. Perhaps it is the 'tragedy of the commons'. Plot holders should be encouraged to compost, this happens already on the individual plots. **Commented [SH24]:** One plot holder recently asked if she could grow medieval herbs. I explained I am unfamiliar with these so she will send info and pictures as they start growing. I do not seek perfection or bare soil on any plots, just evidence that the plot is being worked on a regular basis as many plot holders simply quit and never come back and before you know it the plot is 4 foot in weeds and we try to prevent this unnecessary clearence work for the next plot holder.

**Commented [PR25]:** Agreed. This is something Stephen is well aware of and takes into consideration. He is able to discern between genuine ,no dig' method and ,green manure' plots and those that are just uncultivated but being passed off as the former.

**Commented [SH26]:** We allowed a plot holder last year to make a wildlife pond on an used plot at St Pauls and install an Owl box on a large oak tree. Many plot holders have installed small wildlife ponds on their plots.

**Commented [PR27]:** These are all large enough Councils to have a dedicated allotment team. In our case, we are minimally staffed and resourced and allotments are a small part of what we do in the wider context of property maintenance and land management.

**Commented [PR28]:** True...of course, within the confines of the tenancy agreement, allotment legislation and criminal law. Cultivating crops for sale or business use is not allowed, nor is the cultivation of cannabis etc. And the plot must be in a reasonable state of cultivation and not used for the storage or disposal of household or commercial waste, all of which has happened on our allotment sites over the years.

**Commented [PR29]:** Would they like to enter into negotiations with CCC to take over the management and maintenance of the allotment sites? We have always encouraged the forming of allotment associations and would be happy to discuss self management.

**Commented [SH30]:** Plot holders are encouraged to compost on their own plots and some take this very seriously. I explain at viewings the correct procedures. If a communal area was brought in it would be a fly tipping area. A chipper would also be needed as plot holders would dump all green waste on these areas. I suspect no one would volunteer and my time would be wasted clearing up their mess.

The following could provide a framework for CCC to move to adopting a bio-diversity encouraging approach.

Chichester City Council recognises its statutory duty to help biodiversity, which includes maintaining, restoring and enhancing habitats, populations or species. CCC will follow best practice (with reference to up to date scientific advice) with regard to cutting and removal of vegetation eg:

a) letting grass grow longer at certain times of the year in identified areas to provide a more varied structure, encourage wildflowers and enhance wildlife habitats (some of this is already being done)

b) allowing overgrowth in some, carefully defined areas to provide food for birds, reptiles, insects and small native mammals (some of this is already being done)

c) discourage the use of non-organic pesticides and fertilisers, and encourage plot holders to adopt wildlife friendly ways of maintaining their plots.

#### d) reduce the amount of water use.

e) timing of maintenance/clearing to avoid nesting/breeding seasons (already being done).

f) using sustainably sourced native trees and plants in new planting. The 'right tree in the right place'.

g) promoting the planting of edible fruit and nut trees. This approach has already started at some sites ie Florence Road, with the planting of more trees.

h) avoiding the use of invasive, non-native species.

i) leaving, where possible some dead-wood on site to provide food and shelter for wildlife.

j) integrating bio-diversity approaches and techniques into staff training and updating.

**Commented [SH31]:** This is not suitable on allotments. Many plot holders have complained about this. You can watch the seeds blowing onto other plot holders which causes them more work.

We have Native Wild seed in 3 areas so far, north gate underpass,st James entrance and 2 borders at Florence allotment

**Commented [SH32]:** 1 area at St Pauls allotment, 1 at st pauls church, 1 at Roman amp allotment site, 2 borders at Brewery Fields and we had 2 area at St Barts but the new owners have removed 1 area behind the church.

**Commented [SH33]:** Plot holders are aware if they use any chemicals on site that are imported or banned in the UK/EU they could be evicted. If we banned all pesticides, glyphosate, and i notice it has been used what should the outcome be? Eviction, a slap on the wrist so they can do it again and again???

**Commented [SH34]:** Plot holders are consistently remind about this, if costs become to much then they will receive water bill charges. We asked plot holders if they would like water butts at reduced rates, Peter spoke to the water supplier, not one tenant was interested.

**Commented [PR35]:** When we did this at Florence Road after some tree felling works, we received complaints from Geoff King and Andrew Perry, who accused us of fly tipping tree cuttings.

They requested a dead hedge, but we didn't consider this appropriate along the boundary fence with the public path. We have since planted a fruiting hedge.

k) seeking other advice when needed; for example from Natural England, The Allotments Association, and West Sussex Wildlife Trust, and other relevant organisations. This will be particularly important when reappraising and possibly rewriting the allotment Rules and Guidelines.

At the Full Council meeting of 5 December 2018 a 'Declaration of a Climate Emergency' was tabled, debated, voted on and passed as being an overarching theme that should inform all of CCC's activities.

It is recognised and understood that taking measures to slow down/halt bio-diversity loss is the 'other side of the coin' of reducing carbon emissions in an effort to reign in global temperature rise to 1.5c.

In the Full Council meeting of 11 September 2019, under the motion put by Cllr Sarah Sharp:-

#### 'measure number two:'

"wildflowers to support pollinators, cutting regimes should be timed to allow wildflower areas to self-propogate and improve wildlife value to the land, to increase bio-diversity and manage our land as wildlife habitats".

#### 'measure number three:'

"pesticide free city; in order to put into effect the pesticide free vision we would commit specifically to; increase local bio-diversity through municipal and citizen driven activitiey.'

Allotment growing is a 'citizen driven activity'.

In the light of the foregoing it is to be deeply regretted that it is noted from "notes of virtual meeting of the Property Working Group 5 July 2021 - (14) Allotments:- c)

"wildflower areas. The Property Manager recommended that, despite the positive aspects of wildflower planting, such as increased pollinator populations, no further planting of this type should take place on the allotment sites. He further recommended that the property team should look at wildflower planting on other green areas under the city council's management with one such area being Brewery Field." **Commented [PR36]:** The Allotments Rules and Guidelines were compiled in 2015/16 by a working group which included the Property Manager, Cllr. Rob Campling and Paul Neary, South East Liaison of the National Allotment Society. The three letter uncultivated notice system and a revised tenancy agreement was also a product of that working group.

This needs to be revisited as Brewery Field is not part of the allotments estate and any wildflower planting therefore will not harm food growing.

What is the rational for discontinuing wildflower propogation on such sites?

In the light of the arguments and position set out in this report such a stance negates the position previously taken by CCC in their 'Declaration of a Climate Emergency', certainly in the commitment to encourage bio-diversity in the management of the city's allotments and green spaces.

It might be useful to conclude with the following from 'Growing in the Community' (LGA 2009)

"Fifty years ago there was a uniform view of what 'good cultivation' might consist of, but with the development of organic methods, the expression of different growing cultures ... and the recognition of multiple benefits from allotment gardening, it has become much harder to define the limits of acceptable practice ..."

#### **Disused Burial Grounds**

Although not part of the allotments estate, disused burial grounds also come under the auspices of management by CCC and it might be useful to consider them in the light of 'encouraging bio-diversity'. Disused burial grounds could be considered almost perfect examples of where bio-diversity can and should be encouraged with appropriate planting regimes. The burial grounds in question are:

- 1) Litten Gardens memorial and garden of remembrance and reconciliation.
- 2) St Martins Garden
- 3) St Bartholomews Church

**Commented [PR37]:** Polly has misunderstood the minute. It isn't saying that we won't allow wildflower propagation at the Brewery Field or others sites. Quite the opposite. It is saying that whilst wild flower propagation is not suitable for allotments, it can be undertaken at The Brewery Field and considered elsewhere. In fact, we have already established wild flower and long grass areas at Brewery Field, St Paul's churchyard, St Barts etc.

**Commented [PR38]:** St Pauls churchyard and St Barts (soon to become a private site) have already had wild flower and long grass areas established. Litten Garden has the Garden of Reconciliation which has wild flowers and grasses. The rest of Litten Gardens, being a formal memorial garden, is not suitable for long grass or wild flowers.

**Commented [SH39R38]:** Litten – Agreed! Members of the public still need open green spaces to enjoy activites in case there is another virus breakout.

4) St Pauls Church

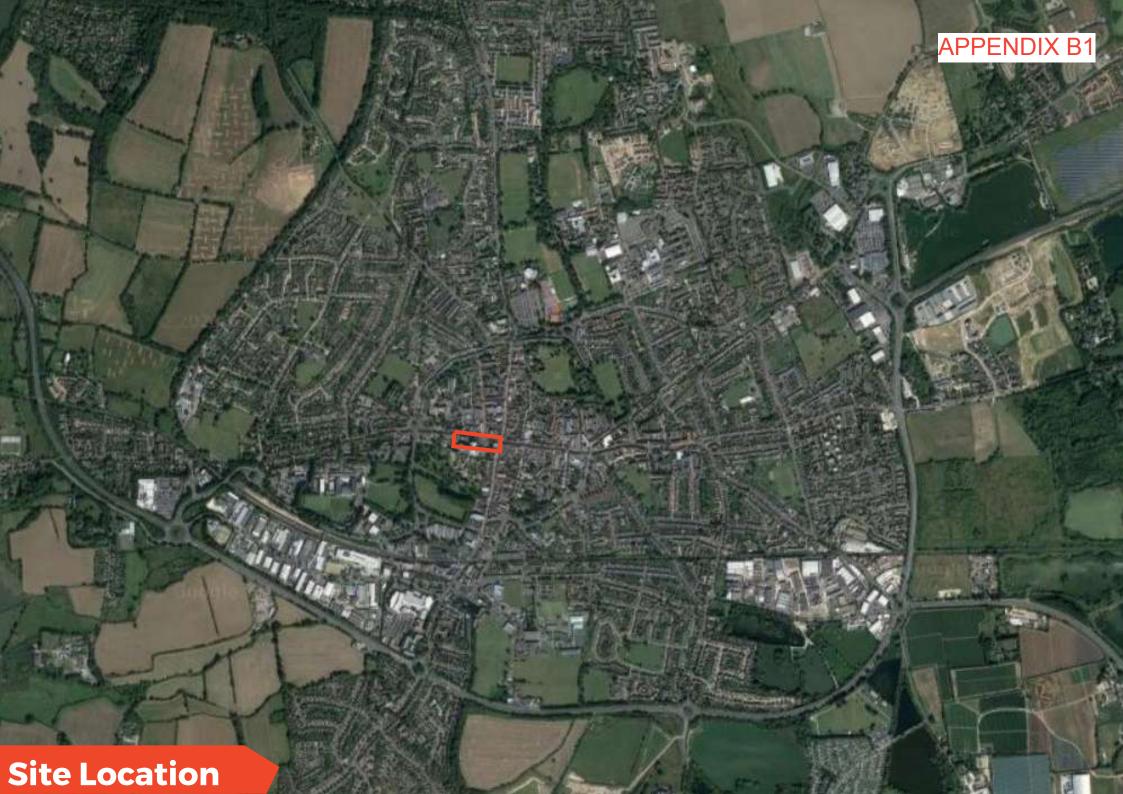
These can and should be managed to become wildlife corridoors.

(Cllr) Polly Gaskin (Green) Chichester City Council



# WEST STREET GROWTH / PUBLIC REALM OPPORTUNITY

**MAY 2021** 



## CONTENTS

01 INTRODUCTION	5
02 SITE ANALYSIS	8
03 URBAN HISTORY	11
04 THE VISION	13
05 WIDER STUDY/CITY CENTRE MAPPING PROCESS	15
06 PUBLIC TRANSPORT	25
07 PRECEDENTS	28
08 CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS	30

Appendix A List of presentations / workshops held



## QUALITY CONTROL

Issue/revision	First Issue	Revision 1	Revision 2	Revision 3
Date	27th May 2021			
Prepared by	Stephen Reed, Donna James, Joe Harries, Heather Hawkey			
Signature				
Checked by	Stephen Reed			
Signature				
Authorised by	Alan Cowan			
Signature				
Project number	70072166			
Report Number	70072166/STAGE3 REPORT			

**APPENDIX B1** 

01

## INTRODUCTION

## **APPENDIX B1**

POTENTIAL SITE BOUNDARY

**KEY** 

#### **1.1** PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1.1 WSCC approached WSP to assess and evaluate the potential interventions which could be undertaken to help to boost the neglected public realm to the north of the cathedral.

1.1.2 WSP had already been commissioned to carry out a study into the maintenance of the highway and footway pavements on the key pedestrian and access streets in the City Centre of Chichester. The streets in questions are highlighted in Figure 1.1 (on the right)

1.1.3 Part of this study highlighted the importance of the outstanding heritage assets in Chichester City Centre, most importantly Chichester Cathedral and Market Cross, both of which sit adjacent to the West Street boundary.

1.1.4 An earlier strategy carried out by BDP also recognised the importance of the heritage asset of the Chichester Cross (as an initial phase) and also the impacts of public transport access through South Street and West Street.

1.1.5 The pressures on West Street due to the public transport links both creates maintenance requirements whilst also creating heavy constraints into the ability for repairs.

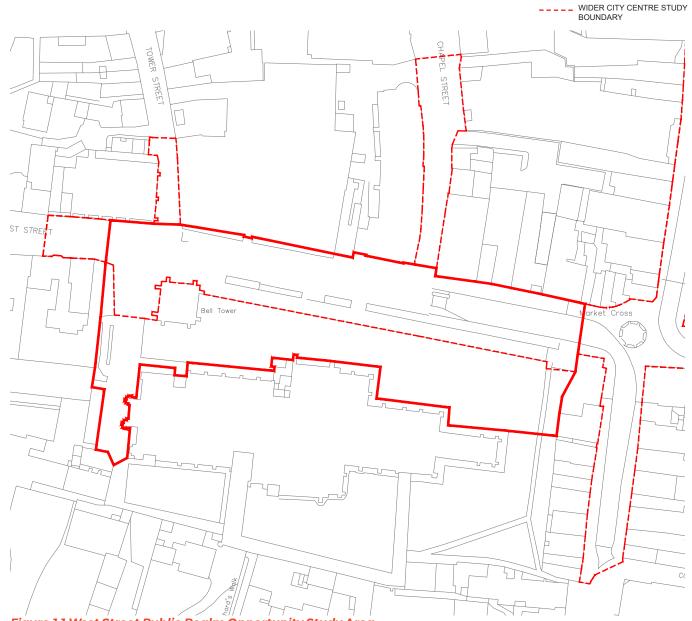


Figure 1.1 West Street Public Realm Opportunity Study Area

# **Site Aerial Photo**

APPENDIX B1

### **1.2** PROJECT CONTEXT

1.2.1 Chichester District Council (CDC), along with stakeholder input, led the production of the Chichester Vision, a document for Chichester's city centre. The City Centre serves as the main educational, shopping, recreational and service centre for Chichester & it's surrounding area however, it is the City Centre's distinctive cultural and heritage assets that are a significant draw for substantial numbers of visitors to the wider area.

1.2.2 West Street public realm encompasses many of the city's prominent heritage assets and as such has been idenified as a priority in the Chichester Growth Deal, a key area where the Chichester Vision can be achieved.

1.2.3 Why are we doing this? To begin to address;

- Improving the Town Centre experience
- Understanding the heritage setting and need for an appropriate response
- Supporting improved economic outputs

• **Dealing with existing poor streetscape condition** - complaints about slips, trips and appearance & understanding the reasons for paving failures and exploring the options

• Maintenance issues - costs / poor quality of repairs / frequency

#### **1.3** INITIAL CONSTRAINTS AND ISSUES RAISED

• Cathedral area severed from West St shops by planters, level difference & busy bus route

• Existing paving has no heritage connection or value & doesn't tone with the surrounding historic buildings

• Tight corner at Market Cross causes issues for buses & overun onto footway

• Connection between the Cathedral & main shopping precint is accentuated by entrance at far western end & narrow pathways within grass.

• Grass in front of cathedral well used on sunny days for shoppers & workers to sit out with lunch etc

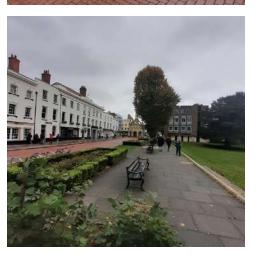
• Grass surroundings to Cathedral may be constrained by historic use as a grave yard.













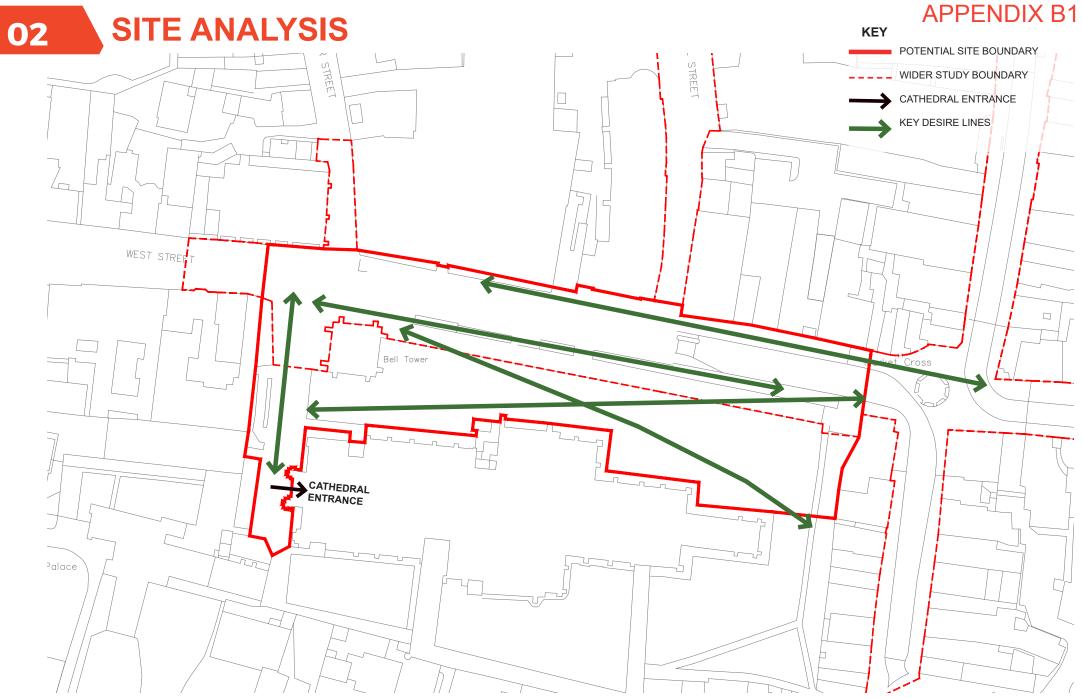


Figure 2.1 Initial Analysis of Pedestrian Traffic

Level differences between West Street and the cathedral grounds currently disconnects the space and doesn't draw visitors into the space.

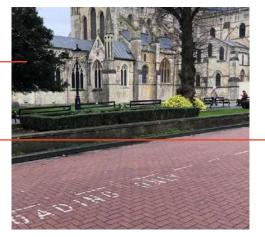
Existing trees around the cathedral haven't been maintained or replaced when necessary. Many are dead or diseased but haven't been removed or replaced leaving unsightly planters growing weeds

The corner between South Street and West Street, adjacent to Russel and Bromley is a tight pinch point for both pedestrian traffic and vehicle traffic. Buses often bump onto the footway due to the tightness of the corner and carriagway width for 2 way traffic.

The busy bus routes also act as a barrier to pedestrians between the shopping district and the cathedral.

The historic entrance to the cathedral is currently closed off but there is potential to reinstate this original entrance. The Bell Tower is currently under renovation through Heritage Lottery funding and could be brought into the public domain. Extensive works to roof and public toilets on north side of the cathedral are also currently underway.

The existing entrance to the cathedral, as well as the cafe, is not clear and inviting and also a pinch point for pedestrians













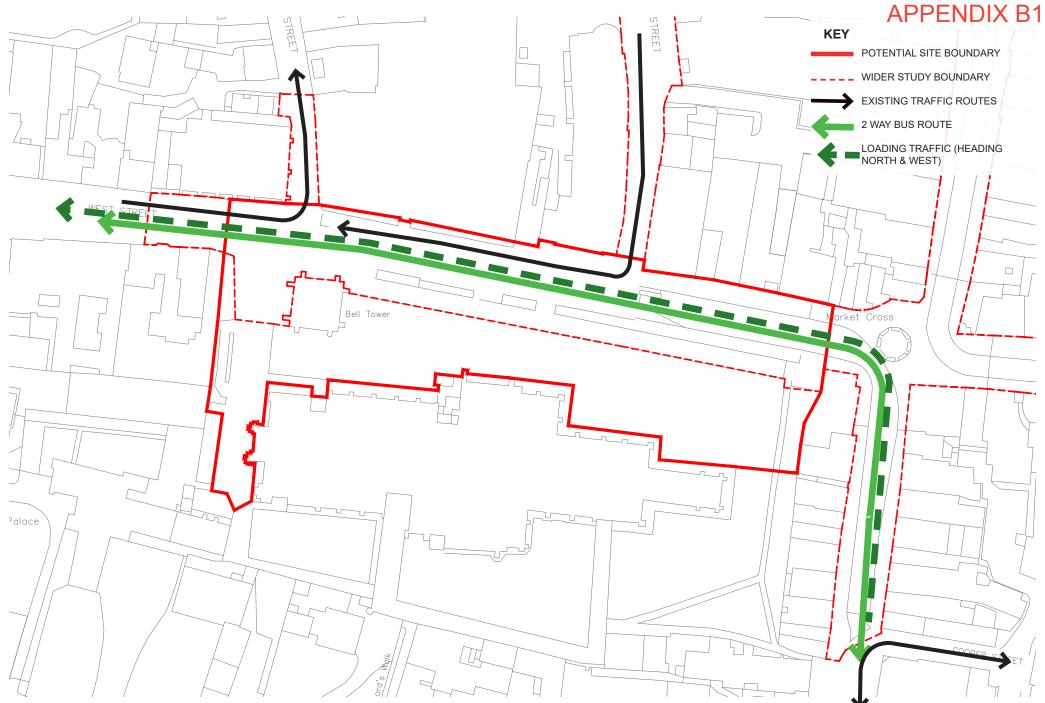


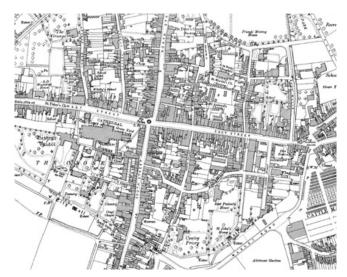
Figure 2.2 Initial Analysis of Vehicular Traffic 10

# 03 URBAN HISTORY

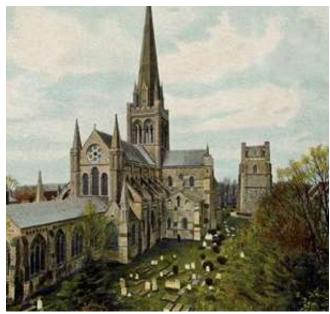
### **3.1** HISTORIC MAPS



1610



## **3.2** HISTORIC PICTURES OF CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL



North East view over graveyard



South East view dated 1838

## **APPENDIX B1**

### **3.3** HISTORIC PICTURES OF WEST STREET



3.3.1 Looking East towards Market Cross (1910) Broad cobbled street with footway & railing to Cathedral ground.



3.3.2 Looking East towards Market Cross (1945) Car parking introduced adjacent to the Cathedral grounds, the first car park in Chichester!



3.3.3 Looking East towards Market Cross(1969) Existing walled planters & bus stops in place.

Subsequently the city centre has been pedestrianised with the exception of West Street.



#### 4.1 OVERVIEW

4.1.1 Chichester District Council (CDC), with stakeholder input, led the production of the Chichester Vision document for Chichester's city centre after extensive research, study and communication with residents and businesses.

4.1.2 The vision document focuses on Chichester's city centre – the area of Chichester within the city walls and ring road, the heart of the wider city. The City Centre serves as the main educational, shopping, recreational and service centre for Chichester as well as surrounding villages. However, it is the City Centre's distinctive cultural and heritage assets that are a significant draw for substantial numbers of visitors to the wider area.

4.1.3 The vision acknowledges that our lifestyles, the way we work, our leisure time, and our shopping habits are changing and that because of this there are increasing opportunities to increase the prosperity of Chichester and its people.

4.1.4 Some of the key points which were raised through the study were:

"More needs to be made of Chichester's existing assets - the Theatre, Gallery, Cathedral, Museum and other attractions should be better integrated into the Centre"



"Outdoor space for performance and for relaxing and socialising, for example around the Cathedral"

"A significant part of the City Centre is already pedestrianised and one approach might be to build on the success of what has already been achieved. In turn, this should encourage the development and use of sustainable public transport that is efficient and affordable, simple and intuitive, networked and integrated, reliable and low-emission."

## **APPENDIX B1**

4.1.5 Some of the conclusions put forward in the Vision document include:

- Fewer cars in the City Centre and priority for walking and cycling
- More pedestrianisation, less pollution, cleaner air and greener transport
- Regeneration of public transport with improved connectivity and later services

• Outdoor space is needed for socialising, music, performance art, events and festivals

• More trees, greenery, floral displays, and interesting public space

5.1.6 The top 3 elements that respondents love about Chichester were:

- shopping;
- places to eat and drink; and
- pedestrianised streets.

4.1.7 However, this was closely followed by parks and gardens, the theatre, Chichester Cathedral and the environmant.

4.1.8 The most common answers when asked what respondents would change about Chichester were:

- to reduce traffic ad pollution in the city centre
- to support independent businesses

- to provide safe and more diverse evnin culture
- for the city to have variety of year-round entertainment for all ages

#### **4.2** THE OPPORTUNITY

4.2.1 As society reconsiders its priorities in the aftermath of the pandemic, it may be time to focus on opportunities that maximise the utility and amenity of the High St in new ways. Spaces that are connected and accessible, for a range of uses and users, have the potential to reinvigorate town centres and promote economic growth.

4.2.2 A project to re-landscape the area between the Cathedral and West Street, with alterations to the roadway to create a shared space, or even a complete re-routing of traffic, has the potential to deliver transformation, economic impact and to positively change the city centre to face a new era.

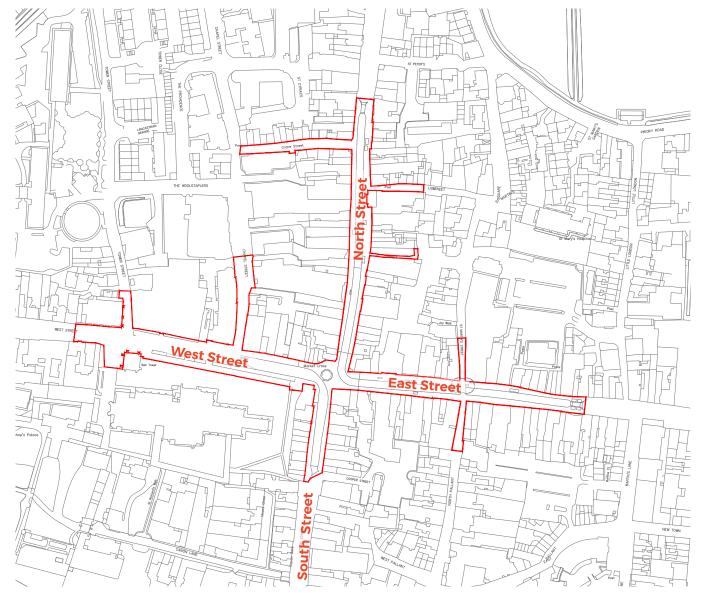
4.2.3 The creation of an exciting central space where the boundaries between the city, and the Cathedral at its heart, become blurred, would offer a new resource for Chichester. It would enhance its physical appearance, enable new leisure opportunities to attract people to the city centre, and make a clear statement about a progressive city, open and eager to embrace the future.

4.2.4 New events could be enabled in the space, a great central venue for Chichester and in fallow times a new piazza style area could allow the city's café society to thrive, re invigorating West Street and creating new external hospitality opportunities (which may be particularly important in the coming years).

4.2.5 Such a project would be positive for tourism in Chichester. It will enhance the city aesthetically, framing the heritage at its heart to create one of the country's iconic central vistas, but also act as a powerful impetus to the economic regeneration of the city centre attracting locals and visitors alike.

# 05 WIDER STUDY / CITY CENTRE MAPPING

## **APPENDIX B1**



#### Figure 5.1 Chichester City Centre Pavements Study Agreed Study Area

#### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The City Centre Mapping Study was based around identifying areas by aesthetic importance and use and agreeing an appropriate finish and programme which would resolve the current issues.

5.1.2 WSP prepared mapping of the city centre in GIS format along with options for solutions, suggesting advantages and disadvantages of different types of paving materials or existing material re-use. In addition, options were put forward to suit a variety of budgets to aim to solve the city centre's maintenance issues

5.1.3 Some elements of the study research and mapping process are relevent to the West Street Public Realm Opportunity study such as the following criteria:

- Heritage & Character (Key Asset Location)
- Trafficking (pedestrian & vehicular)
- Uses / ownership
- Spatial framework (gateways / thresholds / routes / connections)
- Analysis of existing paving materials
- Slips / trips / claim key location.
- "Quality Hierarchy" Heritage, High, Moderate, Utility areas (or primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary)

### **APPENDIX B1**

#### 5.2 **EXISTING HARD LANDSCAPE MATERIALS** ACROSS THE STUDY AREA

5.2.1 The study assessed the extensive variety of paving materials (shown in Figure 5.1) used across the study area which leads to issues in replacements when faults arise.





footways





Red pavers laid herringbone to Purbeck setts around Market bus route



Cross



Blue granite setts to gateways to pedestrian zones





Buff pavers to gateways to Trial panel on North St



Tumbled light grey granite setts to furniture areas



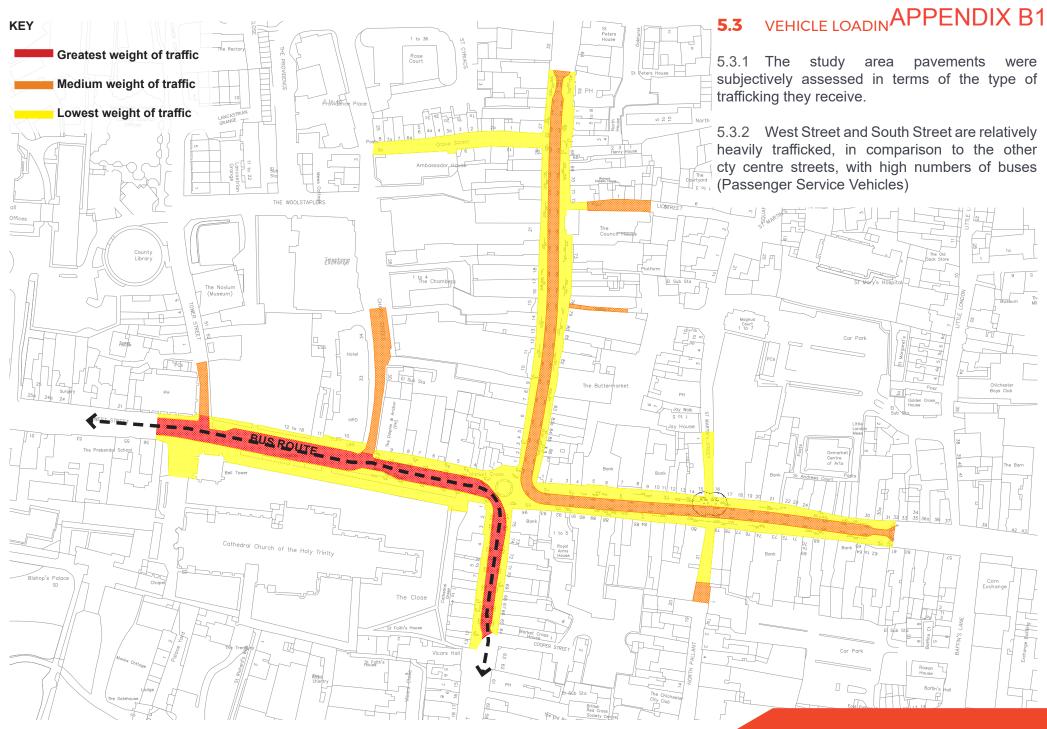
Concrete slabs & asphalt to Concrete slabs around the West Street



cathedral grounds

Figure 5.2 Images of Chichester's existing paving types

pedestrian zones

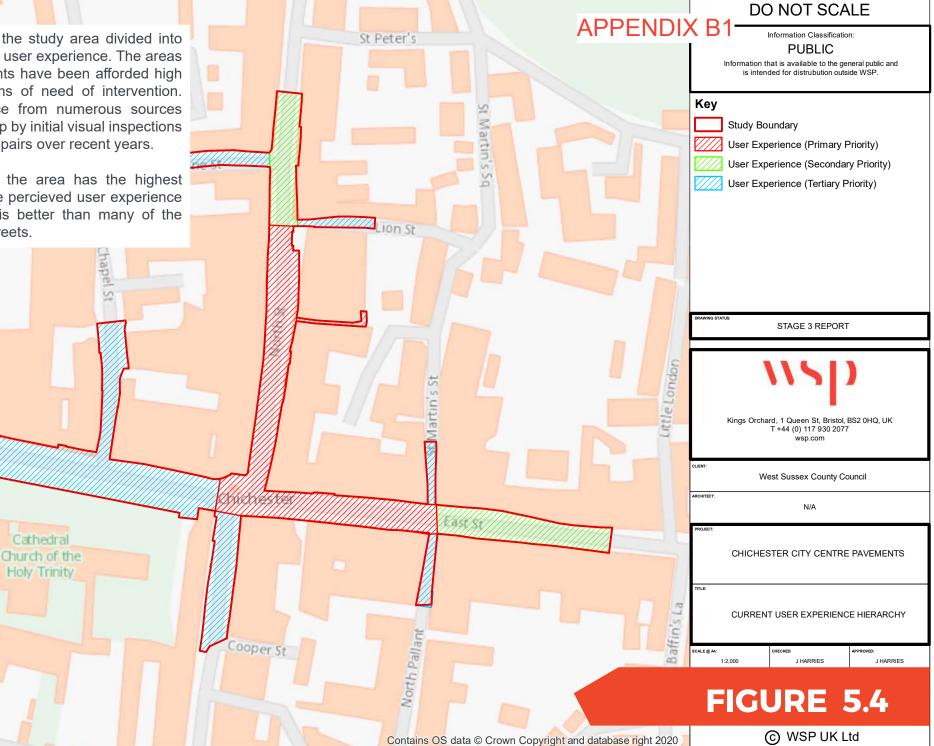


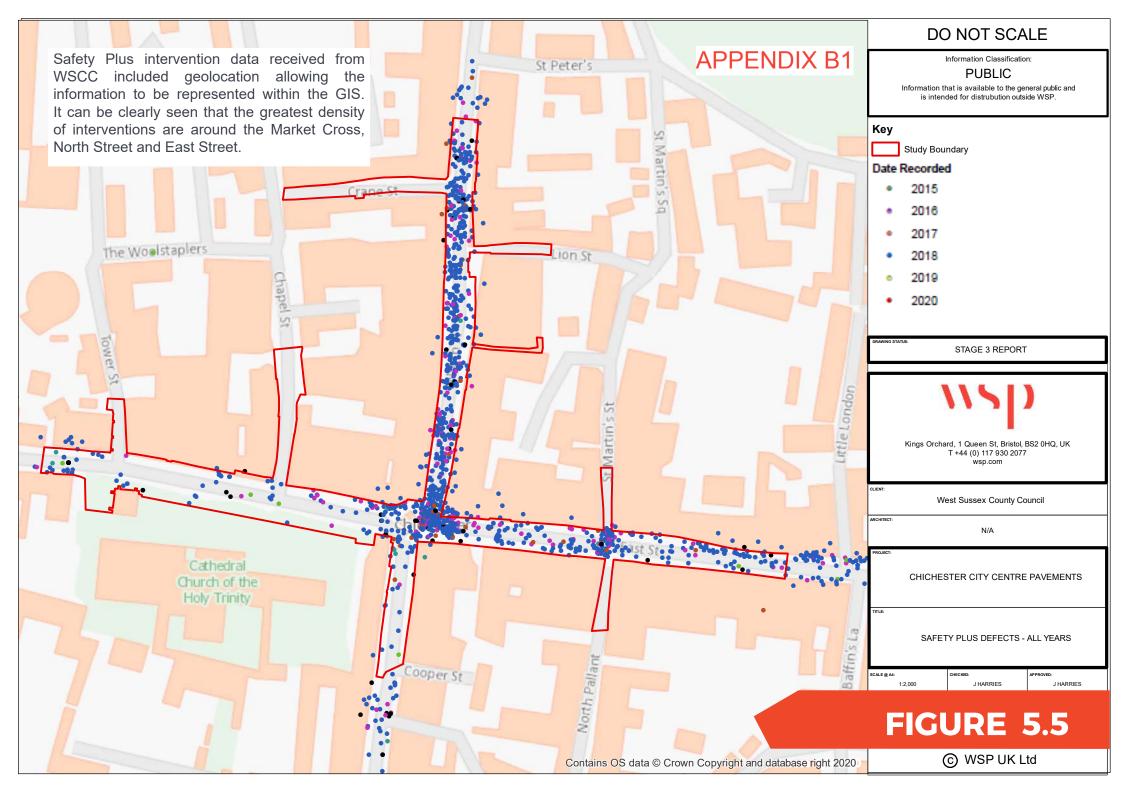
## **FIGURE 5.3**

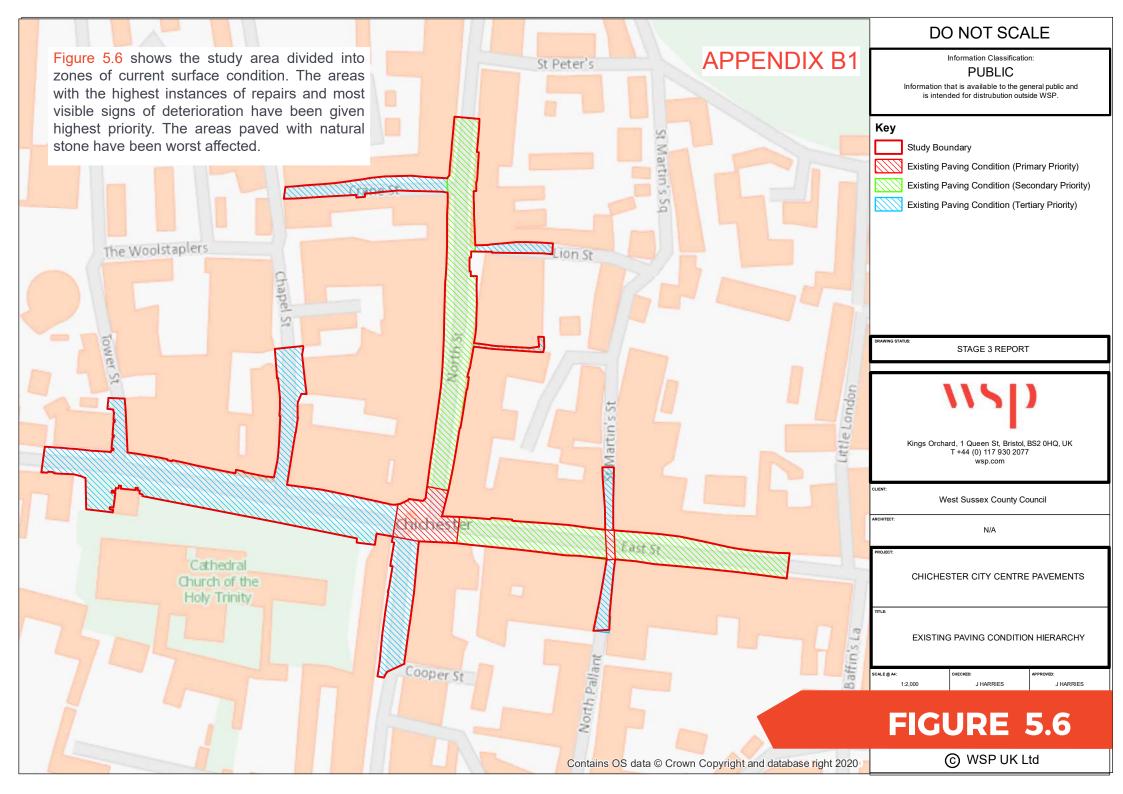
Figure 5.4 shows the study area divided into zones of perceived user experience. The areas with most complaints have been afforded high priority in the terms of need of intervention. Anecdotal evidence from numerous sources has been backed up by initial visual inspections and GIS data for repairs over recent years.

Surprisingly, since the area has the highest vehicle loading, the percieved user experience alog West Street is better than many of the other city centre streets.

Tower







## **APPENDIX B1**

#### 5.7 **KEY HERITAGE ASSETS**

5.7.1 The entire study area sits within the Chichester Conservation Area with the majority of buildings having attractive historic features & heritage value.

5.7.2 The hard landscaping around the city centre should seek to benefit the city's heritage features and to promote them.

5.7.3 Three of these key heritage assets are adjacent to the West Street Public Realm site

5.7.4 The city centre study assessed that, of utmost priority, should be to improve & maximise the setting around the Cathedral & Market Cross. Areas around other key heritage buildings such as The Bell Tower, St Olav's Church, The Council House & The Buttermarket should then follow.

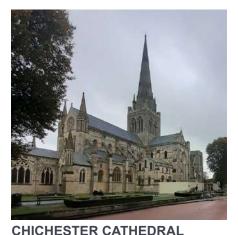








Figure 5.7 Images of Chichester's key city centre heritage assets

THE BELL TOWER

THE BUTTERMARKET



ST OLAV'S CHURCH

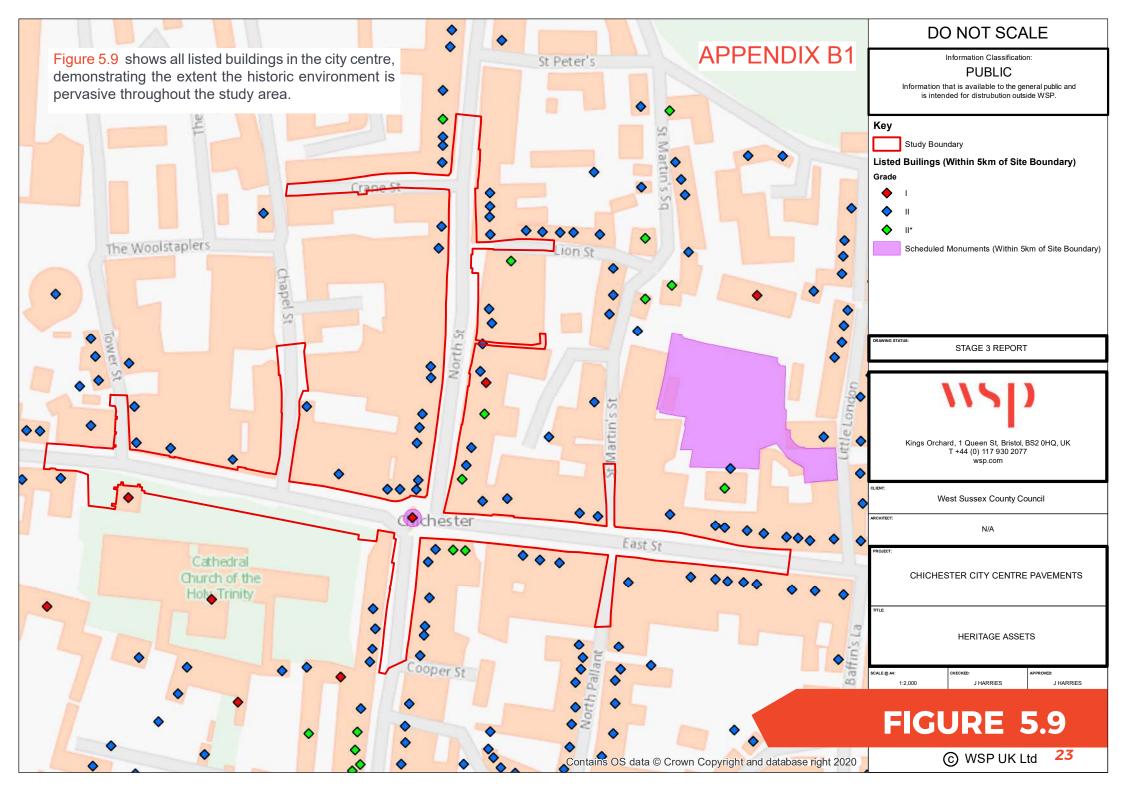


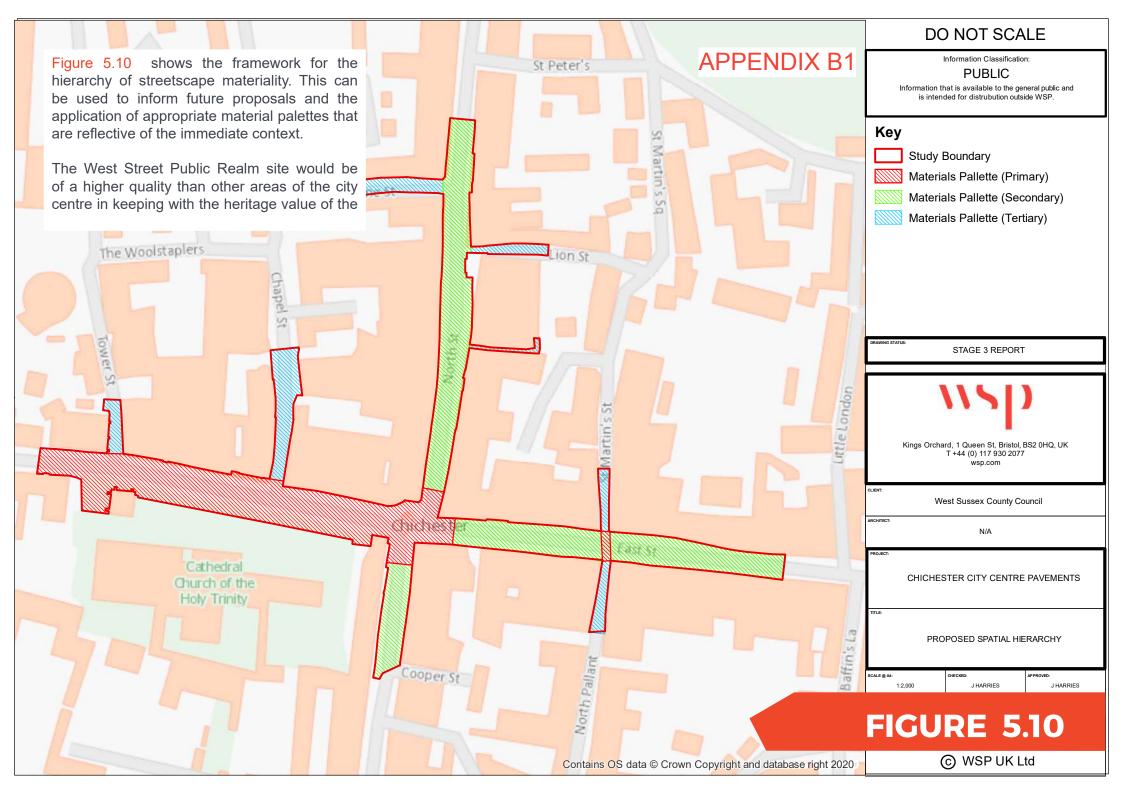
THE COUNCIL HOUSE





## **FIGURE 5.8**





# 06 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

## **APPENDIX B1**

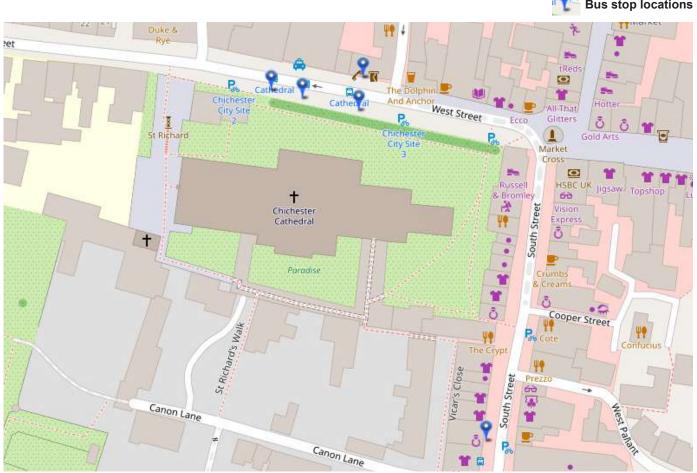


Figure 6.1 Existing bus stop locations

KEY Bus stop locations

#### 6.1 EXISTING BUS STOPS

6.1.1 As the last remaining bus stops within the city centre due to the pedestrianisation of East St & North St the stops along West Street act as a transport hub. Buses move from south to east and east to south.

6.1.2 Around 8 buses stop outside the cathedral heading West (from 3 bus stops & 8 heading East / South (from 1 bus stop). Depending on the time of day there's approximately 35 buses passing by each hour, potentially 1 bus every 2 minutes.

6.1.3 The distance between the Cathderal bus stops (West Street) & Market bus stops is approximately 400m.



Figure 6.2 Photograph of existing bus stops on West Street & the steady stream of single & double decker buses

## **APPENDIX B1**



Figure 6.3 Map of wider public transport connections

6.1.4 Looking at the wider connectivity and bus routes across the entire city will be key to concluding whether an alternative can be saught and how that alternative will work for the city.

6.1.5 Alternatively options could be explored for alternative types of public transport that passes through West Street. Changing to electric vehicles will drastically reduce pollution and create a nicer environment for people to sit out in cafe spill out areas.





Figure 6.4 Non-polluting public transport options

#### 6.2 REMOVING BUS TRAFFIC

#### PROS

- Safer space for cyclists & pedestrians
- More space for events & outdoor cafe seating
- Less noise & air pollution for pedestrians in the city centre
- Removing bus traffic fro West Street would open up the possibilities for the street space
- Outdoor space is needed for socialising, music, performance art, events and festivals
- Space for more trees, greenery, floral displays, and interesting public space

#### CONS

- 400m distance from bus stops to facilities is widely acknowledged as the maximum distance people will walk from public transport (buses) so close by alternatives would need to be found for those wanting to use public transport to reach the city centre facilities, shopping precinct etc as well as visitors to the cathedral itself.
- Removing the Cathedral bus stops will also mean removing the South St stops unless buses still have to drive along West St.
- Public transport should be being encouraged & although that includes improving pedestrian & cyclist experiences, buses should also be included & prioritised.



Figure 6.5 Visualisation of how alternative public transport could fit into the vision for West Street.

PRECEDENTS 07

#### 7.1 **UK EXAMPLES OF SIMILAR SCHEMES**

7.1.1 A number of schemes across the UK have been carried out with similar constraints, aims and objectives to the West Street opportunity.

7.1.2 Castle Street which is a shopping street along the edge of te Cathedral is a very similar public realm scheme where the street has been drastically narrowed to allow much broader, multipurpose footways.

7.1.3 Helensburgh town centre regeneration uses additional seating, widened pavements and high quality surfaces as part of efforts to promote outdoor activity whilst encouraging greater footfall between the town centre and the seafront. This approach is similar to the aim to connect Chichester's shopping district with the cathedral.

7.1.4 Market Square in Nottingham shows a very different approach with a much more hard landscaped design, removing the grassed areas around the histric buildings and extending the paving which allows a huge amount of flexibility for events and markets.

7.1.5 St Giles cathedral, Edinburgh has a bus route close by whilst the adjacent street has a bollard system to allow public transport generally which can be then closed off temporarily for events. The street is paved with hard wearing granite setts & traditional Caithness stone slabbed footways



**CASTLE STREET, CARLISLE** 



THE ROYAL MILE / ST GILES CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH

Figure 7.1 UK precedent images



MARKET SQUARE, NOTTINGHAM



HELENSBURGH TOWN CENTRE, SCOTLAND

### **7.2** EUROPEAN EXAMPLES OF SIMILAR SCHEMES

7.2.1 In general, areas around churches and cathedrals in european towns and cities tend to have a stronger emphasis on hard landscaping and open, flexible space.

7.2.2 Simple, open hard landscaped spaces tend to only work well when pedestrians and cyclists are constantly crossing and moving through the space.

7.2.3 Although an open, flexible space can draw visitorsfor events, it doesn't work well to attract users at other times and the additon of street furniture, trees, planting or areas of grass are needed to draw people into the space.





St Urbanus Kirchplatz, GELSENKIRCHEN, GERMANY

SOLFERINO, ITALY



Kirchplatz, BORKEN, GERMANY

Figure 7.2 European precedent images

Katelijnestraat, MECHELEN, BELGIUM

### WORKSHOP FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS

### **APPENDIX B1**

#### 8.1 NEXT STEPS

8.1.1 The following table (on the next page), prepared by WSCC Officers, sets out a number of potential high-level options for going forward with the scheme, set against key local priorities and transport indicators in terms of potential impacts and providing a score and a ranking for further discussions with Stakeholders.

8.1.2 A key item will be reaching agreement on defining the scope of the works related to the options listed below and finding a funding approach which the wider stakeholders can agree. The scope should include for a review of multi-modal access to the City Centre and highlight a long list of potential opportunities to provide an informed choice for Councillors, these could be progressed through:

- Any quick wins which could be proposed?
- Exploring the re-routing of bus services and where else in town to alter infrastructure to offset changes to bus routing (bus priority locations, new bus hubs),
- How to measure impacts on car access to areas around West Street,
- Link to land use changes (Bus Station area) and existing old office space around West Street,
- Focus on cycle connectivity,
- Disabled Users considerations.



8.1.3 Below is a table of long list options which were developed by WSCC officers internally. A broad criteria was then applied to give a suggestive score to steer the next stages of development. Please note this is indicative and needs further technical input before any final options can be taken forward.

Option Ref.	Description	Chichester Vision	Ped / Cycle	Public Transport	Road Safety	Feasibility / Deliverability	Cost	Public Acceptability	Total Score	Rank
1	<b>Do Nothing</b> Retain the existing two-way operation of West Street for Busses, Cyclist and access permitted vehicles. No change to existing public realm	1	3	5	3	5	5	2	24	3
2	Signalise main approaches (with associated ped/cycle crossings) to minimise impact of Busses clashing at Market Cross Only allow single decked and or electric busses	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	25	2
3	Modify traffic operation of South/West Street so that only one-way motorised vehicle movements are permitted whilst allowing Cycle movements allowed two- way Option to only allow single decked and or electric busses	2	3	4	4	3	3	2	21	5
7	Signalise main approaches (with associated ped/cycle crossings) to minimise impact of Busses clashing at Market Cross Option to only allow single decked and or electric busses but with enhanced public realm scheme that allows 'Piazza' style market quare outside the Cathedral	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	27	1
4	Modify traffic operation of South/West Street so that one-way motorised vehicle movements are permitted whilst allowing Cycle movements allowed two-way. Option to only allow single decked and or electric busses but with enhanced public realm scheme that allows 'Piazza' style market quare outside the Cathedral	3	3	4	4	3	2	3	22	4
5	Modify traffic operation to stop up South Street and make West street in/out for Buses only. Provide turning circle for busses in West st. whilst allowing Cycle movements two-way Option to only allow single decked and or electric busses but with enhanced public realm scheme that allows 'Piazza' style market quare outside the Cathedral	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	18	6
6	Modify traffic operation to stop up South Street and West street. Provide pull ins and infrastructure for busses on points at North/East/South/West st. whilst allowing Cycle movements two-way Allows traffic free, maximum space for public realm scheme- 'Piazza' style market quare outside the Cathedral	5	4	1	5	1	1	4	21	5

## Appendix A List of presentations / workshops held

23rd November 2020 - West Street Stakeholder Workshop

7th December 2020 - Chichester Growth Councillor Briefing

#### MAIN CONTACT

Stephen Reed, Technical Director +44(0) 7900 152645 Stephen.Reed@wsp.com WSP are now one of the world's leading engineering professional services consulting firms. Together we provide services to transform the built environment and restore the natural environment, and our expertise ranges from environmental remediation to urban planning, from engineering iconic buildings to designing sustainable transport networks, and from developing the energy sources of the future to enabling new ways of extracting essential resources.

We have approximately 34,500 employees, including engineers, technicians, scientists, architects, planners, surveyors, programme and construction management professionals, and various environmental experts. We are based in more than 500 offices across 40 countries worldwide.

### Heart of Chichester public realm feasibility study

#### Overview

Aim: Conduct feasibility study to support future funding applications for Public Realm improvement opportunities in Chichester City Centre.

The Chichester Growth programme is a partnership between Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council. Our joint aim is to create better places for our residents by using public resources and assets more effectively and efficiently to support sustainable growth in the Chichester District. Public realm in Chichester is cited as a priority in the current Growth programme.

Chichester is home to 28,000 residents and a diverse economy with a range of businesses active in the City and surrounding district. As the County Town of West Sussex, its iconic historic assets and popular shopping district attract thousands of visitors and tourists every year. The University has a growing student population.

The heart of Chichester is home to a range of listed structures, places of interest and buildings of cultural or architectural significance. North and East street have been pedestrianised for several years and house many retail outlets, providing a traffic free environment. West St and South st still have traffic (including Bus) movements with varying layouts and materials making up the street scene.

The City Centre provides the main education, shopping, recreational and service centre for Chichester district. However, local people have raised numerous concerns including traffic and pollution, lack of evening entertainment and requirement for green spaces. Improving West Street Public Realm is an opportunity to fulfil these requirements whilst also creating a new resource for Chichester. With its iconic historic features, West Street possesses potential to be the heart of the City Centre.

In 2017, Chichester District Council (CDC) formulated a Chichester Vision document, with stakeholder input, which outlined plans for improvements to the heart of Chichester Public Realm. West Sussex County Council support the Vision and wish to explore options that boost the public realm in the West St area.

### WSCC wish to build on existing evidence and explore options for improvements to the public realm in the heart of Chichester City.

Specific objectives for the Public Realm improvements priority study are as follows:

- To redefine West St and surrounding public realm as a destination point of to the City- an important point of arrival, key to making a positive first impression to those visiting the City centre.
- To create an attractive and functional area which links into its surroundings, in particular the heritage assets and pedestrian/cycle routes towards the City centre through the surrounding key streets.
- A multi-use space that supports a range of social, cultural and economic uses in the City centre.
- Provide a flexible scheme that offers options at different cost points to support a phased approach to delivery.

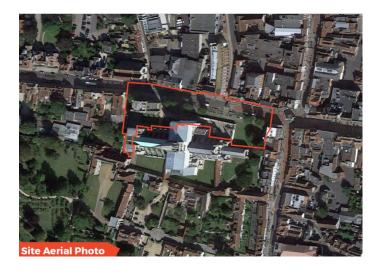
- Links to wider sustainable transport infrastructure to access the City centre.
- To ensure that the design, materials (including hard and soft landscaping) relates to and complements the setting and supports climate resilience.
- Produce designs, cost estimate and risk registers for feasible solutions including any assumptions.
- High level programme that outlines timescales for any proposals.
- Provide technical material to enable WSCC to engage with stakeholders.

#### Outcomes:

The case for public realm investment is based on the idea that public realm improvements have a positive impact on the attractiveness of an area to visitors, workers, and residents. This, in turn, enhances the land values of commercial and residential properties.

Investing in the public realm creates a safer, more attractive and less congested environment for all users. This would encourage more walking, improve health and wellbeing, and provide new and reinvigorated places to dwell and spend time in the Heart of Chichester area. Strategic public realm investment can support;

- Increase in footfall, dwell time and area attractiveness
- Support enhanced real estate values and development demand/commercial growth
- Less traffic
- Fewer collisions and casualties
- Better local air quality
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Less noise
- Health and wellbeing benefits
- Diverse range of social/ economic uses



#### Information

The key background documents that support this work:

- The Chichester Vision 2017
- The WSP West st options report commissioned by WSCC 2021

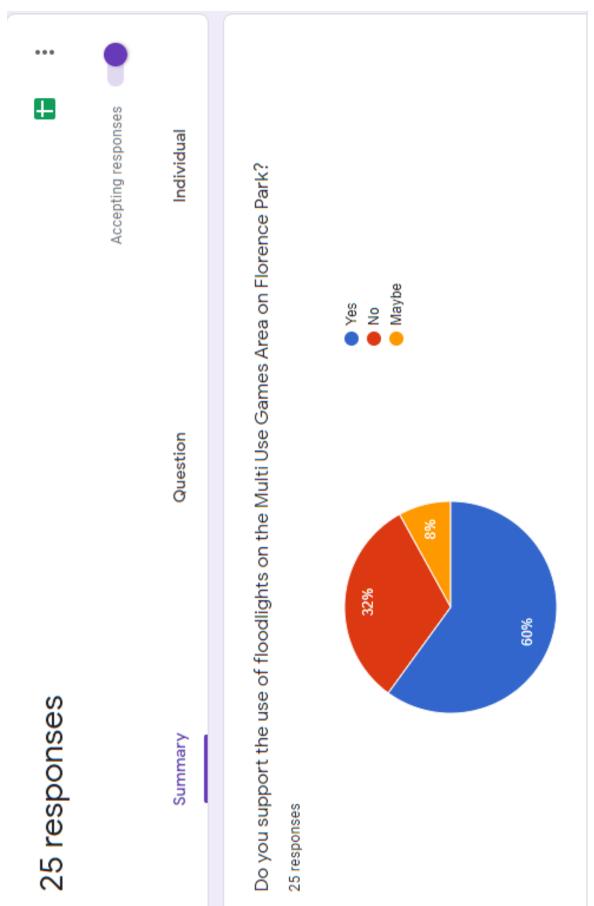
- The WSP Pavements report commissioned by WSCC 2020
- Chichester Growth Deal 2017
- West Sussex Transport Plan 2011-2026
- Other national or international schemes that are similar in nature to provide benchmarking

#### Reporting

The consultants will report regularly to a project team consisting of Officers from WSCC and CDC. The primary contact and lead will be WSCC Growth Programme Delivery Manager. The project team will report to Growth Board. The project team will provide assistance to the consultants specifically in relation to background knowledge and expertise in consultation with the local community through the project team. Occasionally the consultants will be asked to attend and present at the project board or County Local Committee meetings to update on progress and provide technical input.

11 responses	Acceptir Question	Accepting responses	
Do you support a bus shelter at the Bognor Road bus stop (on the south side of Bognor Road, near the York Road junction)? It would serve those people taking the bus into the city centre 11 responses	ad bus stop (on the south side of Bc rve those people taking the bus into	gnor o the city	
90.9%	<ul> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Maybe</li> </ul>		

## **APPENDIX C1**



## **APPENDIX C2**

## Chichester District Council (https://www.chichester.gov.uk/home)

# 'Season of Culture 2022' announced for Chichester District

A Chichester District Cultural Partnership is to develop a special programme of events for 2022 to celebrate and showcase the outstanding range of arts and culture on offer across the district.



In a meeting of Chichester District Council's Cabinet last week, support was given to the project, which will look to create a 'Season of Culture' between March and October 2022, to shine a light on the many fantastic cultural organisations across the district.

"The year 2022 is set to be a very special one for culture in our district," says Councillor Roy Briscoe, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Culture at Chichester District Council. "It will see Chichester Festival Theatre mark its 60th anniversary, Pallant House Gallery its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, The Novium Museum its 10th anniversary, the Chichester International Film Festival its 30th anniversary. It also marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival of Chichester.

"Our Season of Culture will celebrate these incredible milestones and showcase what the district has to offer, with a diverse range of activities and events to engage residents and visitors alike while helping to support the extraordinary range of local arts and heritage organisations that we are proud to have here.