

**AGENDA ITEM NO.**

**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP  
ON 25 MARCH 2021**

**PART A : REPORT**

**SUBJECT: Place St Maur, Bognor Regis**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Rachel Alderson – Principal Landscape & Project Officer

**DATE:** February 2021

**EXTN:** 37946

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Neighbourhood Services

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on the public realm project at Place St Maur and the Esplanade, Bognor Regis.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This is an information paper.

**1. BACKGROUND:**

**1.1 Project Background**

Public realm improvements to Place St Maur in Bognor Regis are intended to make a positive impact to the town and strengthen the connection between the seafront and town centre. Enhancements will create a flexible and functional active space and encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more, which will benefit local businesses and boost the local economy. Design proposals and traffic studies for the Esplanade will also explore the potential to close a section of the carriageway to vehicles at certain times of the year to support larger events.

**1.2 Progress Update**

Cabinet Decision (C/032/16112020) approved the Project Proposal and that the designs for the scheme will be presented at future Cabinet meetings. The Decision also recommended to Full Council the approval of a supplementary estimate of £370K as partnership funding and that should the £1.2m bid to Coast to Capital be successful, the Council enters into a funding agreement with Coast to Capital and approve the drawdown and expenditure of external funding. These recommendations were ratified by Full Council at their meeting on 13 January 2021 (minute 414).

**1.3 Stakeholder Engagement**

Initial stakeholder engagement was undertaken during November and December 2020,

including a virtual Members workshop, to seek knowledge about the site as well as suggested ideas for potential inclusion within the designs. A range of stakeholders were contacted to assist, including ADC Members and Officers, immediate neighbours of the site, local businesses, Bognor Regis Town Council, West Sussex County Council, Bognor Regis BID, Bognor Regis Regeneration Board and event organisers. The Council's appointed consultants, Land Use Consultants (LUC), worked with the information gathered to prepare concept designs which would test public opinion on a variety of elements through public consultation.

#### 1.4 Public consultation

The public consultation was launched on 11 February and will close on 8 March 2021. The plans are being displayed through an online hub and the consultation was widely publicised through posters, banners, press release, letters, emails and social media, taking into account the national lockdown restrictions. It was not possible to hold an exhibition for people to visit, therefore consideration was given to those residents who may not have online access. A booklet combining the consultation material with a questionnaire was sent to residents and businesses adjacent to the site. Hard copies were also available to anyone on request. At the time of writing the report more than 250 responses had been received.

LUC will review the consultation results and identify the most popular features from the concept designs. These will be used to develop a preferred option, to be presented for approval at the Cabinet meeting on 22 March.

#### 1.5 Project costs

The capital budget allocated to the Place St Maur project is £1.5m but there will be ongoing maintenance costs to be considered and allowed for as part of the ongoing commitment to the scheme.

#### 1.6 Next steps

Following approval of the preferred design LUC will work on technical designs for Place St Maur only to enable the scheme to progress to tender stage.

The project team is also working with officers from West Sussex County Council to produce a brief for the Esplanade traffic studies. It is hoped these studies could be carried out in Summer 2021.

### **2. PROPOSAL(S):**

N/A

### **3. OPTIONS:**

N/A

### **4. CONSULTATION:**

Stakeholder engagement was undertaken early in the design phase. A public consultation on the concept designs is running between 11 February and 8 March 2021.

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council	✓	
Relevant District Ward Councillors	✓	
Other groups/persons (please specify) All ADC Members, residents and businesses adjacent to Place St Maur, Bognor Regis Town Council, Bognor Regis BID, Bognor Regis Regeneration Board, wider public	✓	
<b>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Financial	✓	
Legal	✓	
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability	✓	
Asset Management/Property/Land	✓	
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓
<b>6. IMPLICATIONS:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial – The Council has committed to finance part of the scheme and will need to ensure there are sufficient funds in place to maintain the completed scheme long term.</li> <li>• Legal – The Council is required to enter into a legal agreement with Coast to Capital.</li> <li>• Sustainability – Sustainability is a factor when sourcing materials for the scheme.</li> <li>• Asset Management/Property/Land – ADC will retain responsibility for the land on completion and therefore its maintenance.</li> </ul>		

**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

N/A

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

[Cabinet 9 March 2020 – Minute 499 refers](#)

[Full Council 22 July 2020 – Minute 114 refers](#)

[Environment & Leisure Working Group – 3 September 2020 – Minute 14 refers](#)

[Cabinet 16 November 2020 – Minute 285 refers](#)

[Environment & Leisure Working Group 10 December 2020 – Minute 22 refers](#)

[Full Council 13 January 2021, Minute 414 refers](#)