

3. Spatial Framework

Key contents:

Ring Road improvements

River Anton Corridor

Anton-Vigo Green Route

Public Realm Strategy

This section presents the Spatial Framework for Andover town centre. It combines strategies for movement, green infrastructure and the public realm. It provides a strategy for encouraging meanwhile activities to animate new and existing public spaces.

The Spatial Framework establishes the core design principles and physical structure which underpin the more detailed illustrative masterplan proposals in Section 4. It complements the Action Plan in Section 5.

- Key town centre assets
- Potential redevelopment opportunities
- Longer term opportunities
- Active frontages
- Public spaces/ routes
- Lanes



Ring Road

There are three key areas where radical intervention is considered potentially beneficial for the town. The benefits and impacts of these improvements are being tested with the County Council.

Western Avenue gyratory

Two lanes could potentially be removed allowing the river Anton to be opened up. The underpass to the rail station could be removed and 'at-grade' crossings provided for pedestrians and cyclists. Following the approach adopted for the Town Mills improvements, new T-junctions could maintain access to West Street, the bus station and Chantry Centre car park.

Eastern Avenue/Vigo Park roundabout

This could be replaced with T-junctions and the underpass replaced with 'at-grade' crossings. This would allow Vigo Park to be extended closer to the town centre and improve the setting of the Church. Slowing traffic on Eastern Avenue would also allow the underpass at the end of Union Street to be removed and replaced with a standard pedestrian crossing.

Borden Gates roundabout

This could be replaced with a T-junction, improving connections between the cinema, Asda, car park and the town centre.

Car parking

There is no reduction in overall car parking capacity proposed within the town centre. The strategy proposes a more strategic approach to parking provision, with increased capacity on the northern and eastern edges, allowing for removal of parking in priority locations, and freeing up some important development opportunities.

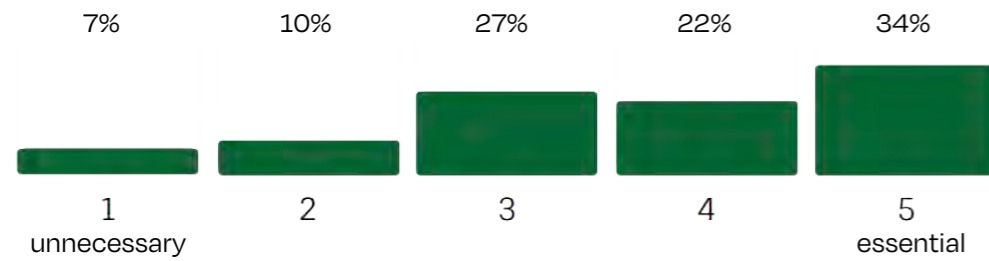
The proposals are:

- Increasing car park capacity at Shepherd's Spring Lane and ensuring any new car park at Andover College is visible and accessible to the public at evenings and weekends.
- Improving pedestrian exits and connections from the Chantry Centre car park to the Leisure Centre.
- Improving pedestrian connections from Asda car park to the town centre via Borden Gates and River Anton
- Increasing the capacity of George Yard car park to allow for shops and homes on Black Swan Yard and improvements to the historic lanes.
- Improving accessibility to the town centre with on-street parking, disabled parking and drop-off facilities close to key destinations.

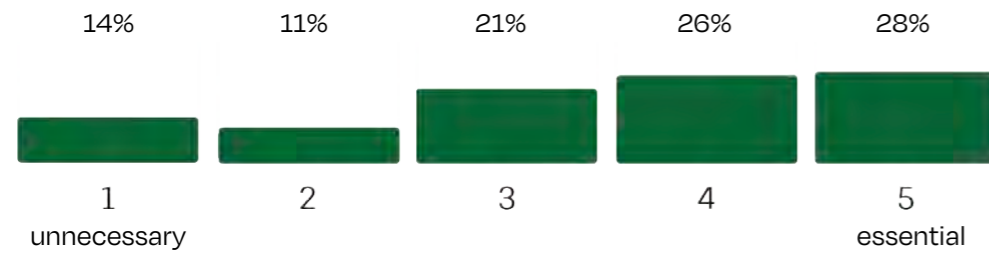
Survey Response

The survey analysis showed over 90% of people support the proposed parking strategy. Over 70% thought it was important or essential to transform the Ring Road.

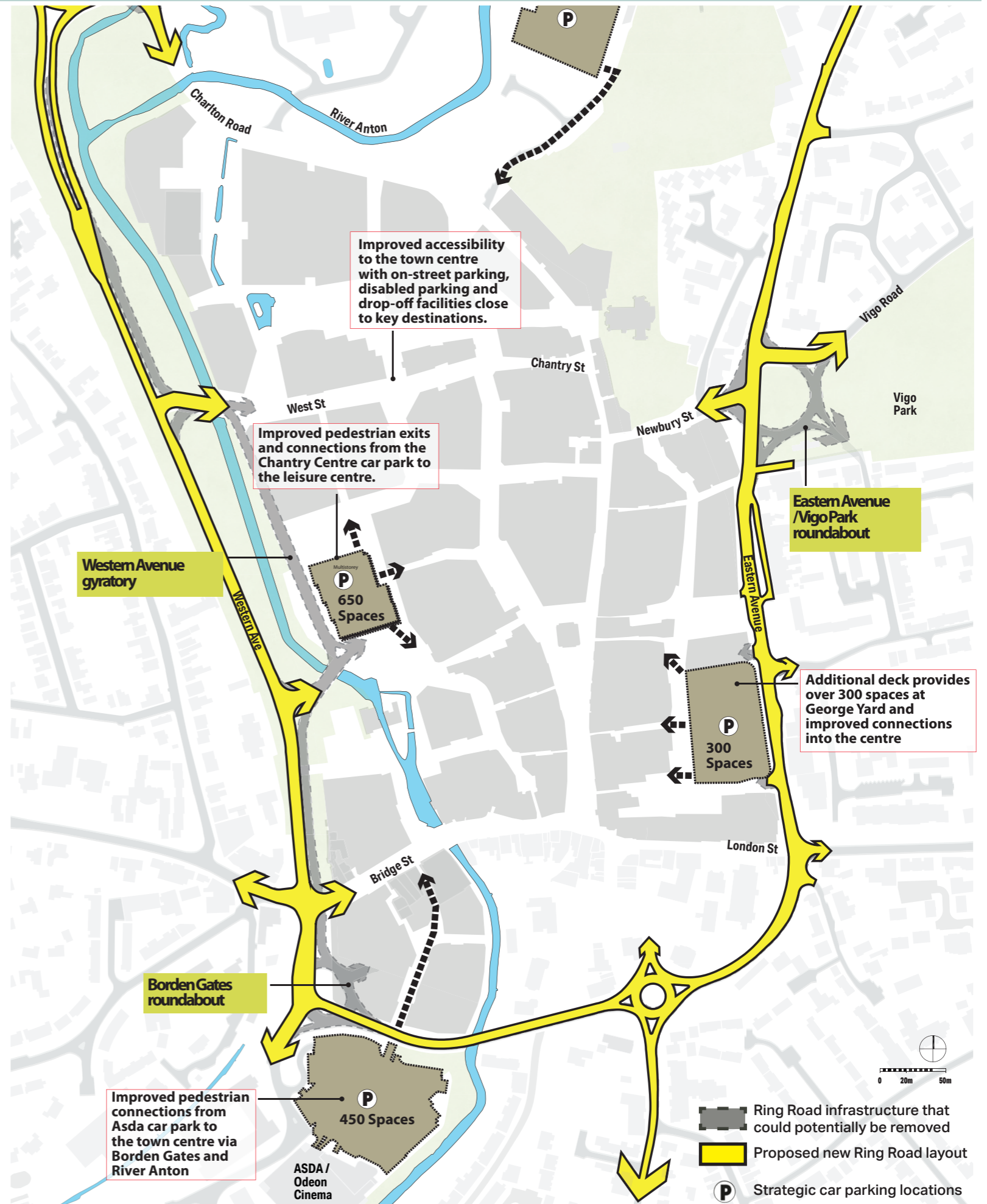
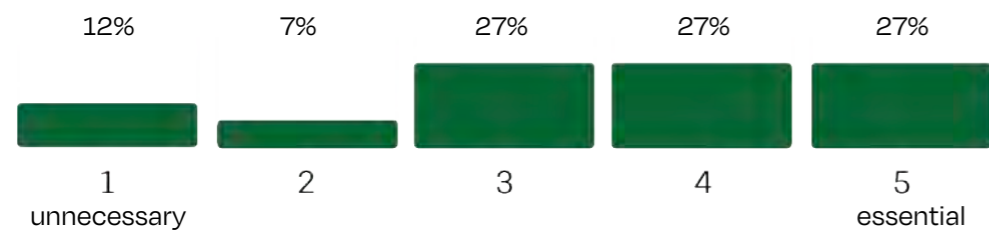
RING ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - 3.7 average rating



TRANSFORMING WESTERN AVENUE GYRATORY - 3.5 average rating



NORTH-EAST-SOUTH-WEST PARKING STRATEGY - 3.5 average rating



Green Network

The Green Infrastructure proposals are part of the movement and public realm frameworks. They will promote active travel, physical exercise, community cohesion and exploration of the town centre for the benefit of local businesses. They will enhance the natural environment and help address the climate emergency as well as demand demonstrated for open space during COVID-19.

Two key priorities for the town centre were to open up the River Anton and to bring more green space into the town centre. Reconfiguring the Ring Road is key to achieving these aims as set out above and also needs to be coordinated with wider measures to improve the pedestrian and cycle network outside the town centre, particularly to the rail station and residential growth areas.

River Corridor

Pedestrian and cycle routes extend north to Anton Lakes and south to Rooksbury Mill Nature Reserve but the town centre stretch north of Town Mills represents a significant break in the River Corridor. Addressing this area is a natural extension of the important work done to improve Town Mills.

Restoring access to the river in this area will bring health benefits, ecological benefits, air quality benefits and encourage active travel. It should also provide regeneration benefits for the whole of Andover, attracting visitors, encouraging longer stays in the town centre and stimulating higher quality investment.

Anton - Vigo

An Anton-Vigo green link would create a strong pedestrian and cycle connection between these features, with a new green space at its heart. It would integrate other important aspects of health, community and civic life in the town, including the Leisure Centre, Andover College and St Mary's Church. It would also improve connections to sports pitches and clubs in the east, and the rail station in the west.

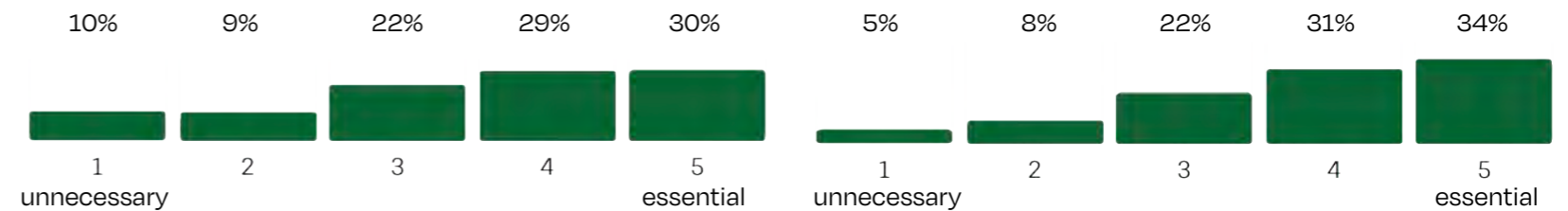
Survey Response

94% of survey respondents supported the need for the green infrastructure strategy.

65% of survey respondents thought the strategy for the River Anton was very important or essential.

AN ANTON-VIGO GREEN LINK - 3.6 average rating

RIVER ANTON CORRIDOR - 3.8 average rating





River Anton

The new river corridor will provide a 'shop window' along Western Avenue promoting the natural and urban qualities of Andover. It creates the opportunity for a natural green corridor, for community enjoyment of the river and for new vibrant urban areas.

Natural green corridor

The River Anton can be opened as a green pedestrian/cycle link from Town Mills to Andover College with ecology areas, recreational space, informal play and picnic areas. The focus should be promoting and enhancing the 'classic Hampshire chalkstream' qualities of the river and potentially referencing the former 'Sprat & Winkle' Railway Line.

Informal community spaces

At key points, where the ecology permits, access to the water can allow the local community to enjoy the riverfront and to learn about its qualities. The spaces will be grassed and 'informal'.

Vibrant urban areas

In the longer term the riverfront presents an opportunity to transform the quality of development in the town centre. Future redevelopment of the Lidl food store, surface car park and Chantry Centre car park could create a new riverside quarter for Andover with new hotels, homes, restaurants, cafés, and for offices.

Two key opportunities are created:

- A new riverfront space for the future use of the Magistrate's Court, including hotel, leisure or educational use;
- A space for new cafés and restaurants close to the bus station

Survey Response

95% of survey respondents supported improving public access to the River Anton, improving ecology and providing space for play. Half the respondents thought it was essential to encourage more cafés and restaurants along the river.

"Access for all, safe play for children and disabled access, better cycling routes and wheelchair highways"

"Open up the river for kids to play just like Chilbolton Common in the summer!"

"It would be amazing to introduce some more interesting green space to Andover. It would be nice to walk through the town and then into a green space for everyone to enjoy with a book or a picnic"

"Overlooking the river - restaurant / hotel, events/ dance hall, ice rink, cinema"

"I believe the River Anton corridor is potentially the most important aspect of the redevelopment of the town."

"Making it accessible to all"

"Improved cycle ways"

"Creation of a totally pedestrianised area"



- 1 Removing the eastern arm of the gyratory allows land in public ownership to become public open space
- 2 New green corridor between the town centre and Western Avenue
- 3 Removal of underpass to create more attractive arrival from rail station
- 4 Magistrate's Court site provides prominent location for variety of possible uses, including Andover College, Lights Theatre or possible residential .
- 5 In the longer term Lidl could potentially be relocated or incorporated into a mixed-use scheme long term
- 6 Opportunities for occasional high quality café, pub or restaurant
- 7 In the longer term new apartments create an attractive frontage to the Chantry Centre car park
- 8 Longer term opportunity to redevelop or reuse Simplyhealth offices if they relocate to new facilities
- 9 Existing proposals to enhance Town Mills



Anton - Vigo green spine

The proposed 'Green Spine' would improve walking and cycling connections between residential areas, sports pitches, the railway station and key uses in the town centre and also help address the need for new green space in the town centre. It would be a social space where residents and visitors of all ages can play, exercise and relax.

Andover College

A modern campus for Andover College would help it retain and attract students. By increasing heights and densities it would potentially free up some land for additional offices and housing in the town centre. Around 150 car parking spaces would be available to the public in the evening and weekends to help serve the Leisure Centre.

Leisure Centre

The improved green space provides outdoor opportunities for promoting health, leisure and exercise and expanding the services provided by the Leisure Centre. Improved pedestrian routes makes it easier to walk to the Leisure Centre from the nearby car parks, or to cycle from the residential neighbourhoods.

Simplyhealth

New offices for Simplyhealth would mean around 1,000 people working close to the town centre shops and services and their green ambitions would support the Vision for Andover. Health related uses at ground floor such as physiotherapists and chiropodists alongside the Leisure Centre could create the basis of a 'Well-being' Quarter.

Magistrate's Court site

Preferred locations for a new theatre are being considered, but the Magistrate's Court could be an option, with café at ground floor fronting the River Anton welcoming visitors from the rail station. Alternatively, the site provides opportunities for new College facilities, for improved health and leisure facilities or for a town centre hotel or possibly residential.

St Mary's Church

The Vision reinforces St. Mary's Church as a civic and community focus. New streets and spaces enhance its setting, connect it to the rest of the town and provide opportunities for events and activities within its grounds.

The Vision will open up longer distance views to the church. Exterior lighting can highlight its presence, create a stronger sense of identity for Andover, improve wayfinding and encourage more evening activity in the area.

Vigo Park

Reducing the scale of the Ring Road allows Vigo Park to be extended making the park feel part of the town centre.

Survey Response

Over 80% of survey respondents thought the Anton to Vigo green link, and a new public space, were important.

"Bring back a bandstand/performance area, natural sculptures and living willow tunnels"

"Outside fitness classes for all ages"

"Free activities, outside gym, links to local sports groups eg. Park run, organised cycle rides, outdoor yoga etc"

"Outside exercise equipment"

"Ability for local practitioners and coaches to offer talks and book readings and pop-up meditation or mindfulness workshops"

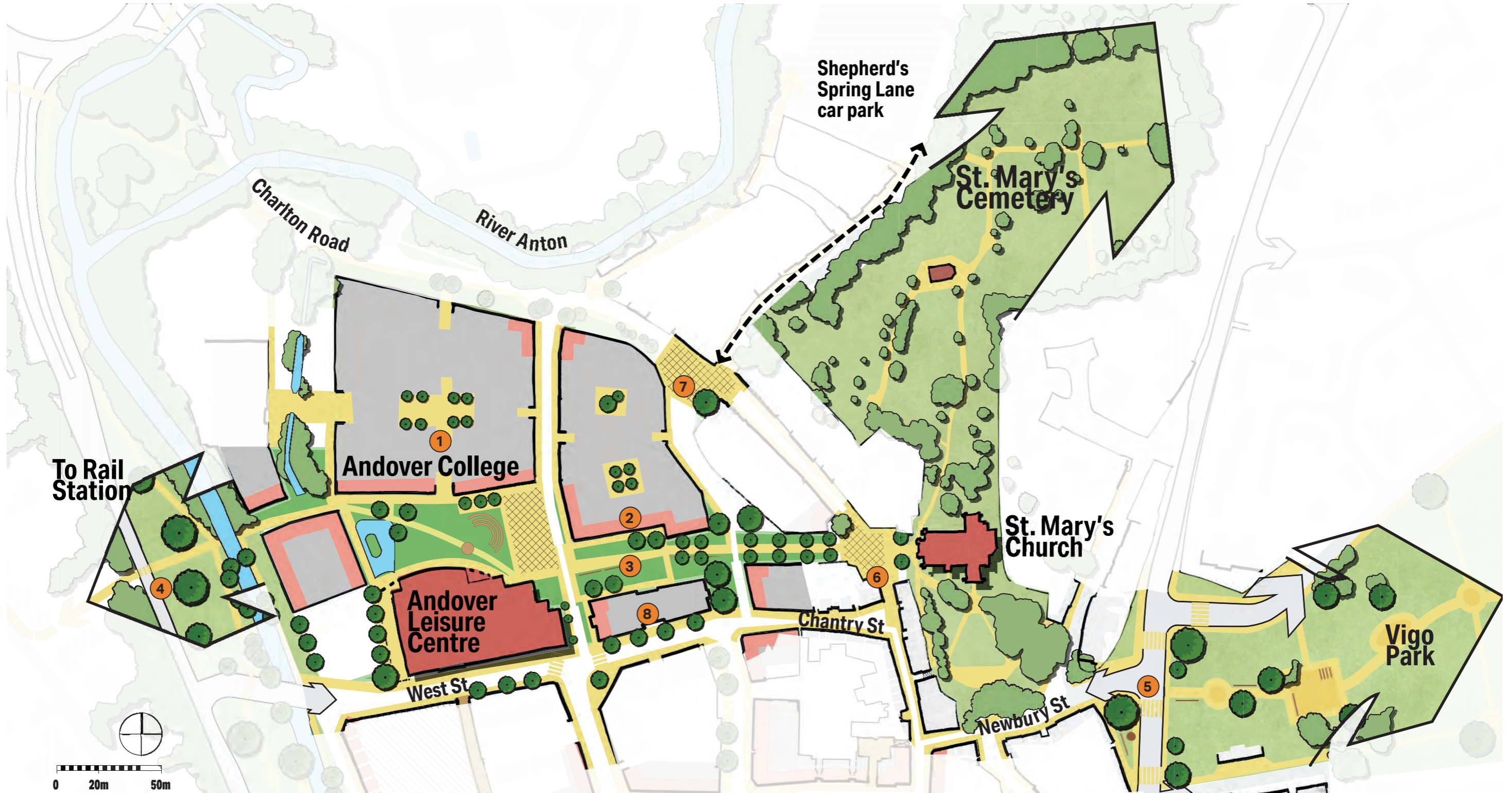
"Outdoor water play area for children"

"Outdoor Park gym / lifesize chess etc."

"Play areas, picnic areas"

"Trees"

- 1 Modern campus for Andover College and extension of Skill Centre
- 2 Environmentally sustainable offices potentially for Simplyhealth or a mixed-use scheme with residential
- 3 'Green Spine' with views between Leisure Centre and church
- 4 Removal of underpass and better links to rail station
- 5 Removal of roundabout and expansion of Vigo Park
- 6 New public spaces improve connections to St Mary's Church
- 7 Links to decked car park on Shepherd's Spring Lane
- 8 Town houses or apartments



A network of streets

The core network comprises the existing High Street, Bridge Street and London Street.

Key public realm objectives for the redevelopment of the Chantry Centre site are to create a more integrated street network, improve the quality of the streets and public spaces and to create a more walkable town centre.

Addressing the physical blockage at the heart of the town centre will make key destinations such as the Leisure Centre and Andover College feel closer to the High Street. It will encourage students and workers to visit the town centre more often during the day and in the evening.

This network of attractive and accessible new streets will encourage a wider mix of uses into the town centre. Office and residential uses at upper levels will bring vibrancy during the working week, at evenings and weekends, supporting local businesses. Community and cultural uses will be needed to address the anticipated reduction in retail floorspace.

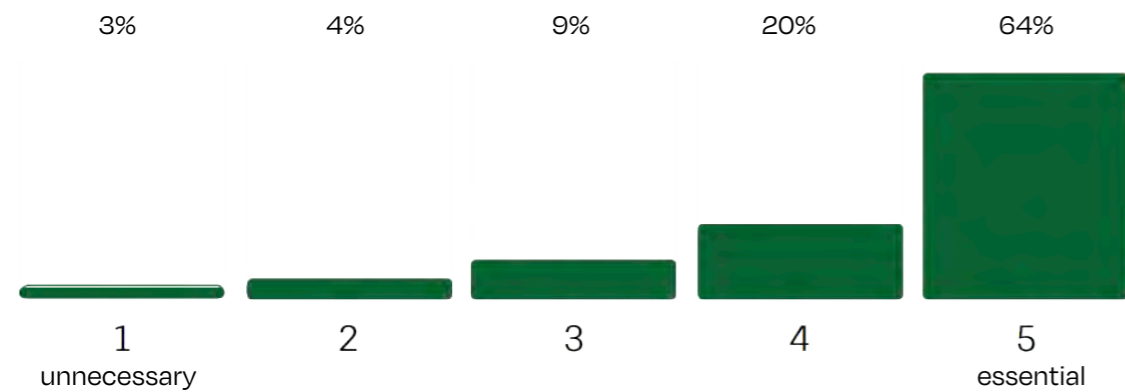


- 1 A new north-south street complements High Street and creates a stronger pedestrian circuit connecting the retail core to the Well-being Quarter.
- 2 A new east-west street connects Eastern Avenue, the High Street and the bus station, with the potential for vehicular access to the retail core.
- 3 The Anton - Vigo 'green route' creates a strong east-west pedestrian route between the High Street and Andover College.
- 4 New green routes along the river connect the Well-being Quarter to Town Mills and Bridge Street
- 5 The historic lanes are strengthened to create a network of interesting streets for visitors to explore.

Survey Response

93% of survey respondents thought it was important to revitalise the Chantry Centre. 64% thought it was essential.

REVITALISING THE CHANTRY CENTRE - 4.4 average rating



Animating the High Street

It is now widely acknowledged that social traffic creates economic traffic and that when people get together, commercial exchange and business ideas will follow.

Shared and public spaces are now vital ingredients of our town centres and high streets.

A successful high street, offers much more than just a shopping experience, they are places where the local community can come together, meet, partake in social activities and share experiences.

Andover is in a fortunate position, whereby it already has a predominately pedestrianised high street framed by a number of attractive buildings, however further public realm enhancements and interventions are needed in order to the high street to perform as a truly inclusive & social space.

Encourage an 'active' high street:

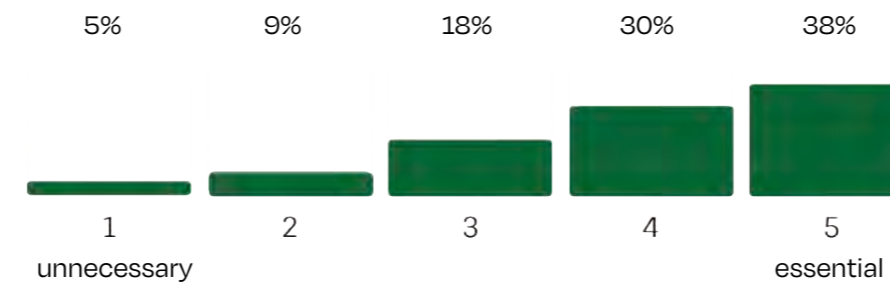
People need to have a reason to be, and stay, in a particular place. The more activities and options a street offers, the more likely it is to attract diverse groups of people, which is essential for creating a vibrant town centre.

The most successful streets have an indoor-outdoor quality where indoor activity spills onto the street - from outdoor café/restaurant seating to programmed events and sporadic activity.

Survey Response

94% of survey respondents thought it was necessary to revitalise the historic core.

REVITALISING THE HISTORIC CORE - 3.9 average rating



Recommendations:

- Allow and encourage existing and new cafés/ restaurants to spill out on to the high street
- Create spaces that encourage sporadic activities such as small scale performances or busking
- Ensure that any future landscape interventions incorporate flexible spaces with room to accommodate markets and public events such as live performances, screenings and festivals.



Exhibition Road, Kensington

Southgate, Bath



Trinity Square, Hull



Designated performance spot

Allow the high street to become a social space

A social street is one that encourages informal interactions such as listening to music, engaging in a public artwork, or simply sitting, taking a break and watching the world go by.

People will spend more of their time (and money), in a place where they feel comfortable and where there are features that attract their attention or interest.

There is currently very little on Andover's High Street that would encourage visitors to the town centre to linger.

Create a safe, inviting and navigable environment

Wayfinding signage that encourages people to explore the town centre, the quality and quantity of street furniture that encourages people to "rest a while" and spend more time in the centre, the number of street trees and planters that can create a sense of wellbeing are all, perhaps, below par in Andover. However, there are spaces that create opportunities to introduce more of all the aforementioned and can thus help to create a more navigable and greener town centre. Focusing on spaces and street furniture that help create a more convivial environment can help support town centre retail, leisure and food and beverage outlets.

Recommendations:

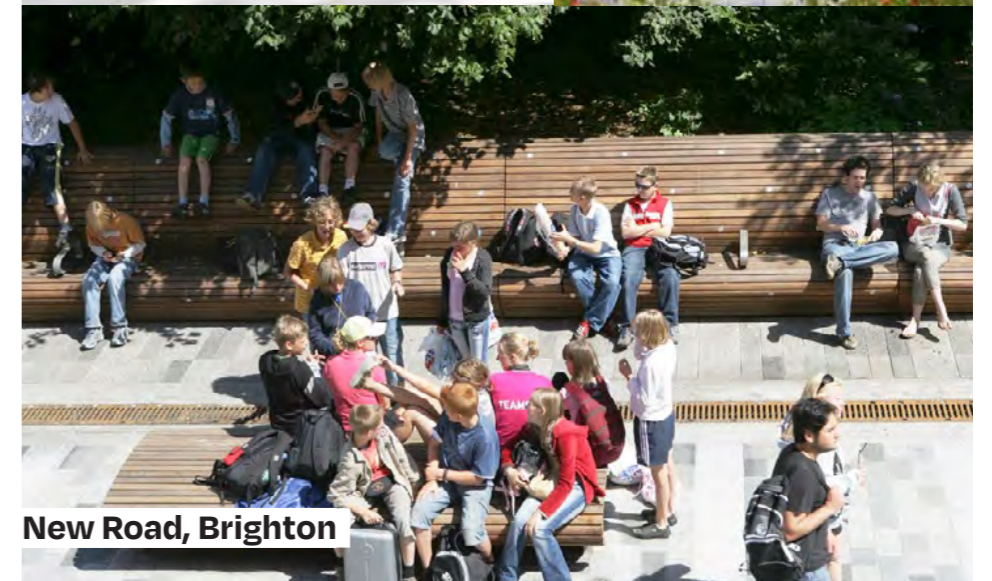
- Don't settle for standard, off the shelf public furniture. Invest in high quality, well designed solutions with aesthetic value, that could also be viewed as piece of sculpture and encourage play.



Public furniture that encourages play



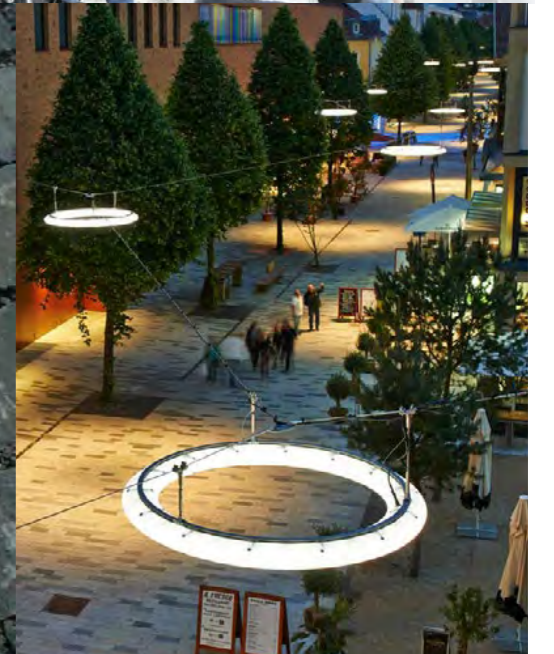
Brotorget, Sweden



New Road, Brighton

Recommendations:

- Introduce a wayfinding strategy that is not only informative, but visually exciting and "recognisably Andover".
- Improvements to street lighting will help create a safer public environment and extend the hours in which social activities can take place.
- Adding street trees and greenery to the streetscape will enhance the aesthetic quality of the high street and help encourage social encounters, by providing shade, shelter and places to stop and rest.



Revitalising the lanes

The Lanes are a key part of Andover's historic character and home to some of the town's most loved independent shops, restaurants and cafés but the public survey also highlighted the need for improvements. The lanes are also important east-west pedestrian routes, linking the Guildhall to Town Mills and linking the High Street to Eastern Avenue.

Investing in the public realm along these key pedestrian routes, providing seating, planting, community gardens, public art, lighting installations or space for buskers and a wayfinding system will help these existing businesses thrive, attract a more diverse range of people to visit Andover and encourage them to explore the wider town. Low cost pop-up spaces within the lanes, and improved public spaces at the end of the lanes, can also help to attract new businesses to the town centre. These measures can be introduced relatively early and cheaply and can help to stimulate interest in the town from higher quality and innovative developers.

What can activating the lanes and alleyways do for Andover?

- Improve connectivity and legibility through the town centre, notably east-west connections from East Street to Town Mills and River Anton.
- Provide a high-quality and attractive environment that supports independent businesses and community activity.
- Encourage a diverse range of people to spend time in the town centre
- Adds a place marketing element

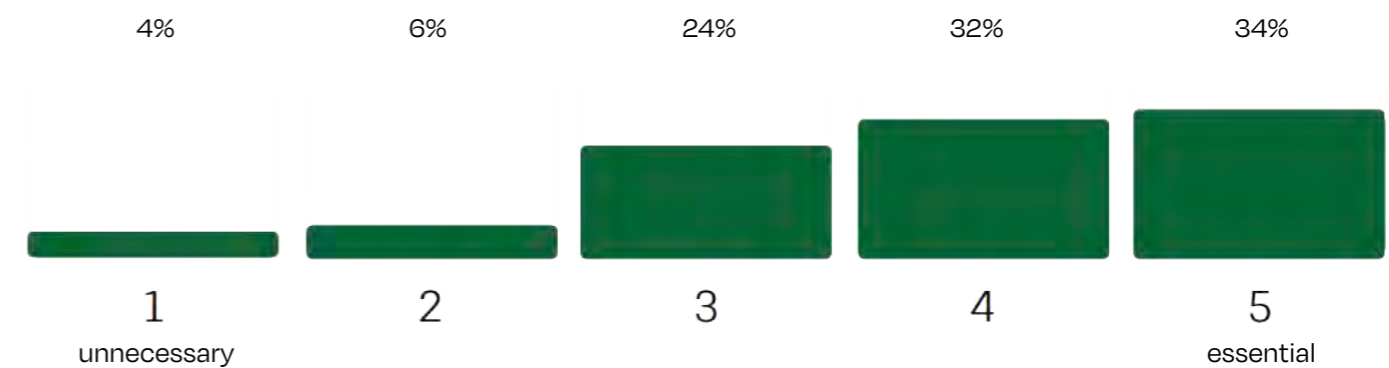
Potential uses and interventions:

- Community urban gardens
- Creative play
- Small shop units or workspaces
- Temporary art and light installations
- Street furniture

Survey Response

90% of survey respondents said it was important to revitalise the historic lanes.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE LANES - 3.8 average rating



Case Study - The Lanes Brighton

The Lanes Brighton are in the city's historic quarter and have become home to a mix of small independent businesses, from antiques and jewellery shops to boutique and designer fashion shops.

This area of Brighton was historically a fisherman's hangout but has now become a cool and vibrant area with its own identity within Brighton. The Lanes are now home to a range of unique businesses, making it a popular spot for both tourists and locals. The streets have a great atmosphere throughout the day and night, with fairy lights lining the streets and a buzz of people eating out at the variety of bars and restaurants giving the area a great night-time economy.

The Lanes sit between the City Centre and North Laine, which is known as the Bohemian Quarter, and acts as a central hub to connect the different areas. Artists installations and community activity are encouraged, and means a diverse range of people visit the area on a regular basis.



A network of spaces

The series of new and improved public spaces promote the key civic and community assets in the town centre:

- The Guildhall
- St Mary's Church
- Town Mills
- The Leisure Centre/Andover College
- The River Anton

The High Street is the main 'civic' space in the town centre. The framework looks to increasing the space north of the Guildhall. The aim is to enhance the flexibility of this space for events, and improve the setting of the historic Guildhall, putting it firmly at the civic heart of the town.

A new public space is proposed which can complement the expanded High Street but is a separate physical space. It will provide a location for cultural activities, events, pop up retail and street food, as well as spill out space for cafés and restaurants. It can complement the High Street by creating a more flexible event space and is close enough to the Guildhall for combined events to be held.

The prominence and quality of the external gardens around St Mary's Church should be enhanced to attract visitors north along the High Street. It should also become a stronger focus for indoor and outdoor community events and activities. St. Mary's Cemetery should also become a stronger focus for community events and civic pride.

The Anton-Vigo link enhances the river and Vigo Park. Removing the Vigo Park roundabout allows the Park to be extended, giving more flexibility for events and reducing the separation from the town centre.

A new space has recently been created outside the Leisure Centre which will be at the centre of Anton-Vigo green route. The new space should be a focal point for health, leisure and informal recreation, bringing all ages of the town together.

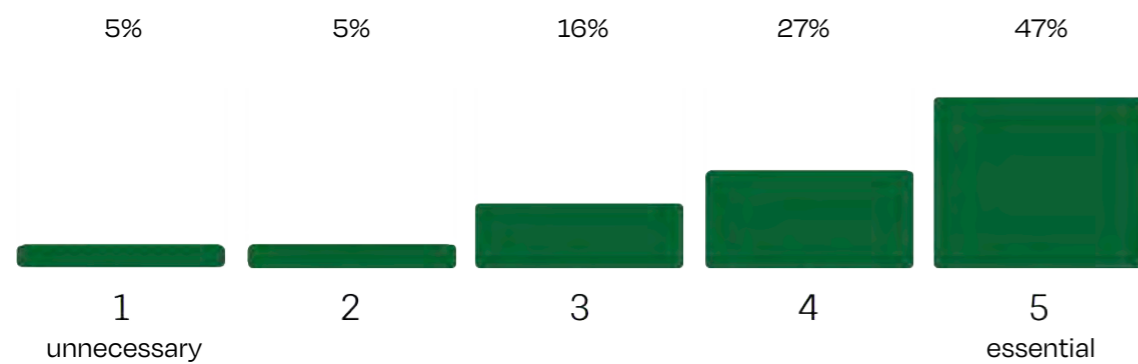
A new space is proposed along the River Anton, close to the bus station and midway between the Well-being Quarter and Town Mills. It should be a space for family recreation and enjoyment of the river, supported by a small number of high quality cafés and restaurants.

- 1 'College Green' space within Well-being Quarter.
- 2 Arrival space for St. Mary's Church.
- 3 'Sprat & Winkle Square' new space to provide access to the River Anton.
- 4 'Chantry Square' New town centre space with potential to host events and offer spill out space to surrounding cafes, restaurants and theatre.
- 5 New space for Union Street arrivals.
- 6 Improved Civic setting of Guildhall.
- 7 Proposed improvements to Town Mills

Survey Response

90% of survey respondents said it was important to have a new public space for events and markets. Nearly half of all respondents said this was essential.

A NEW PUBLIC SPACE FOR EVENTS AND MARKETS - 4.0 average rating



College Green

'College Green' should showcase the best of Andover's community activity, promoting healthy living and social interaction.

This is a key arrival space into the town centre, particularly for those arriving on foot from the rail station. After crossing the river, visitors will enter a truly mixed-use space, fronted by Andover College, Leisure Centre, new business, residential and cultural buildings.

The space has a visual and functional relationship with St. Mary's Church. Views should be provided to the church from College Green, emphasising the civic and community role of both areas.

It should be a place where College staff and students feel comfortable to gather before, during and after work. It will complement the more private, internal, courtyard space which the College requires for students. Importantly it will provide a high quality 'address' and arrival for the enhanced College campus.

It should be a place where office workers or local residents gather at lunchtimes, evenings and weekends to relax and exercise. It should be a place where families bring children to play. It should be a place where activity spills out from the Leisure Centre, acting as an 'outdoor gym' for the town centre.

It should incorporate grassed areas and tree planting, addressing the lack of such space within the town centre, but have the flexibility to accommodate a range of activities for all ages throughout the year.



St. Mary's Church

As Vigo Park is extended closer to the Church and the Museum there is an opportunity to create a much stronger public realm which reflects the quality of the historic buildings in this area of the town centre, and the cultural activities already being undertaken.

A new entrance space is proposed on the western approach which creates a strong arrival into the church from the Well-being Quarter.

A public lighting strategy should be considered to reinforce this, and extended to other important civic and cultural buildings in the town.

The opportunity should be taken to work with the Church to create a more flexible space in the grounds which can support appropriate community and cultural events. This principle should also be extended to the Cemetery which is a large and valuable green space. Community gardens, edible planting and 'adoption' of untended plots can create a stronger civic and educational role for the Church and the Cemetery.



Chester Cathedral

Using the building, the cathedral grounds and other historic spaces for indoor and outdoor cinema.



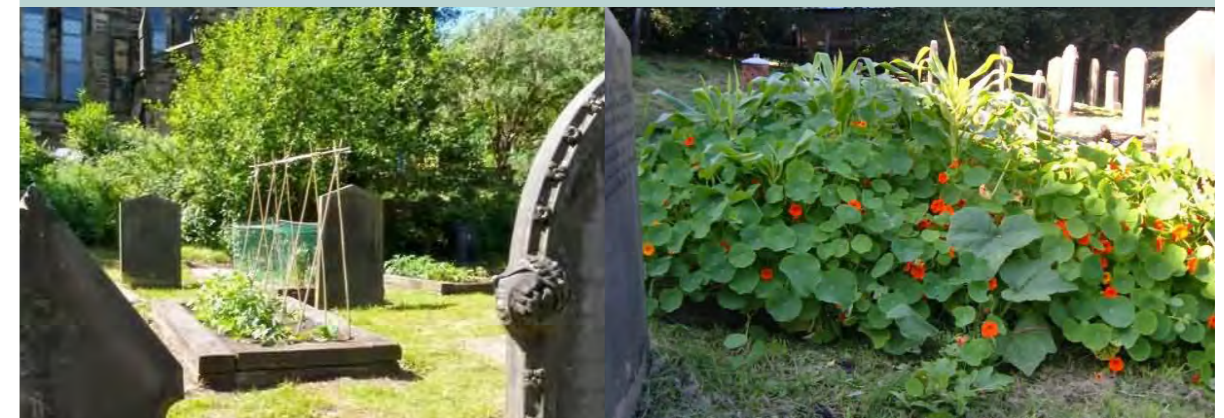
Salisbury Cathedral

The Sarum Lights festival promotes visits to the cathedral and the city centre.



Todmorden Cemetery

The Incredible Edible Todmorden project has extended into the church cemetery.



Sprat & Winkle Square

There is an opportunity for a more urban riverfront space, midway along the river corridor between the Well-being Quarter and Town Mills. It is located close to the bus station, and is positioned on the alignment of the new east-west connection from the High Street, through the Chantry Centre, to the River Anton.

The design of the space needs to reflect the ecological survey of the river and the topographical survey. Ideally this would be the location for a harder landscaped edge to the river, with steps down to enable closer access.

In the longer term it is anticipated that a permanent mixed-use edge should be created through the redevelopment, or built extension to, the Chantry Centre car park, possibly alongside reconfiguration of the bus station and the Lidl store/car park.

In the shorter term, the space can be animated through 'pop-up' cafés and restaurants. 'Box Park' style container units are increasingly popular in city centre locations. Alternatively bespoke units could be designed or adapted by local artists or creative businesses. The designs could be coordinated with the town trail to give a more distinctive Andover identity.

A similar 'pop-up' approach to the landscaping may also be appropriate, particularly in front of the bus station and Chantry Centre car park. This will enable an appropriate riverfront environment to be created at relatively low cost, whilst maintaining flexibility for longer term redevelopment.



Box On The Docks Pop-Up, Salford



Container cafes, Christchurch NZ

Chantry Square

Chantry Square should be a modern, vibrant and independent space. It should provide a transition from the historic 'permanence' and tradition of the High Street and Guildhall to the more contemporary qualities of the lanes.

It should be a venue for showcasing the best of the area's local food producers, creative businesses. It should provide opportunities for 'curated' markets that will attract new visitors to the town, and for street food that will attract students from Andover College and office workers at lunchtimes and the evening.

It should provide flexible space for pop-up stalls. It should provide an event space, acting as an outdoor extension to the theatre and other cultural, music or creative activities that surround it. The focus should be on hard landscaping but with enough planting to provide shade and shelter.

The west facing edge of the square will be suitable for cafés and restaurants, and spill out space should be available for those businesses. The east facing edge should incorporate locally designed public art and seating that encourages play, increases dwell times and draws visitors towards the local creative businesses. Balconies for offices and apartments provide life and overlooking at all times of the day and evening.

Case Study - Frome Independent:

Founded by a Frome-based entrepreneur, The Frome Independent is an award winning, destination street market, where Frome's high street is re-claimed once a month to showcase the best independent craftspeople, designers, makers, food producers and vintage traders in the South West. Its initial aim was to bring footfall to the independent shops of Frome's streets.

The Frome Independent strives to be 'more than a market', incorporating live music, DJs, street performance, workshops and children's activities on market days and running our Night School workshops and supper clubs in between markets.

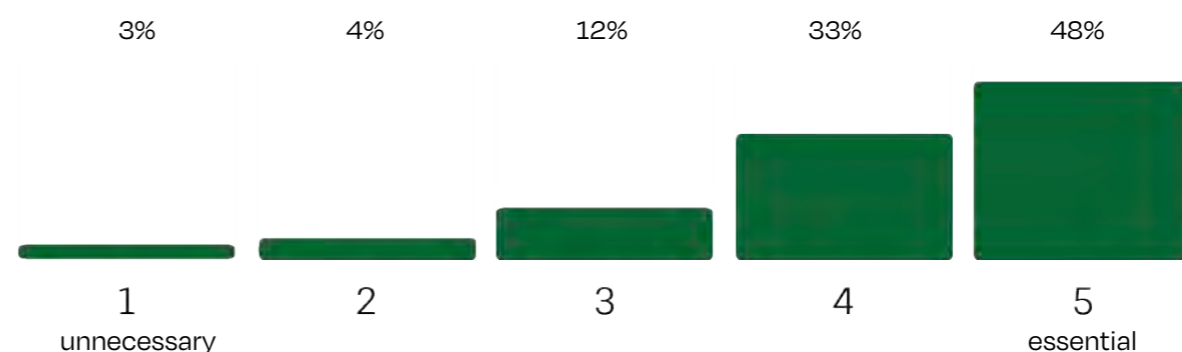
The market is a free event for visitors and has quickly grown to be one of the most significant elements in the region's calendar attracting over 80,000 visits each year.

The Frome Independent itself is non-profit making, but the event helps generate an estimated 2.5 million in revenue for its traders and Frome's independent retailers and hospitality businesses.

Survey Response

Over 90% of survey respondents said it was important to provide space for independent businesses and 'pop-up' retailing. Around half said it was essential.

FLEXIBLE SPACE FOR INDEPENDENT TRADERS - 4.2 average rating



Guildhall at the heart

The Spatial Framework gives the Guildhall greater civic prominence and increases the amount of public space around it. This gives it greater civic prominence and allows greater flexibility for markets, concerts, events and spill-out activities.

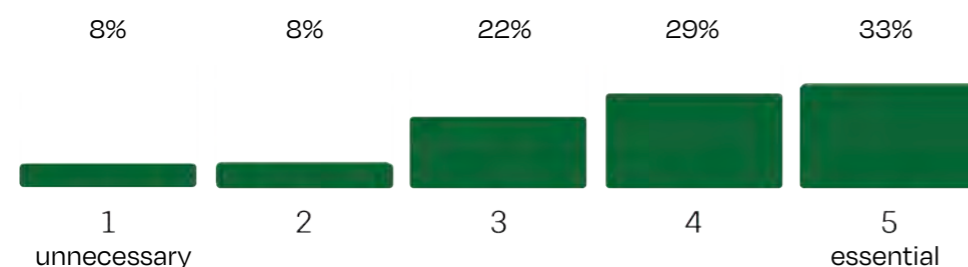
The public survey highlighted that the Guildhall is one of Andover's most loved most underutilised assets. It occupies a strategic civic position at the centre of the High Street, and whilst its function as a restaurant is valuable, it could do more to animate and activate this area of the town.

Public suggestions for its long-term use included arts and music events, fairs and markets, community and education as well as civic uses. The scale and aesthetic qualities of the Guildhall, alongside its public ownership, gives it the potential to be the 'crown jewel' of Andover town centre.

Survey Response

84% of survey respondents said it was important to find a civic or community role for the Guildhall.

FINDING A CIVIC OR COMMUNITY ROLE FOR THE GUILDHALL
- 3.8 average rating



Case Study - Altrincham Market Hall

Altrincham is one of the original market towns. It's charter dates back to 1290. Altrincham Market, is now at the heart of the re-invention of the town to make it 'the' modern market town.

Altrincham's original Market House has been converted into a permanent foodie hub, home to 6 food kitchens, a coffee shop, a chocolatier, a wine shop and a bar that serves up the best of British craft beers.

At weekends The Market House hosts outdoor themed markets covering regional food producers, vintage fashion and furniture, home house & garden and contemporary craft.

In 2010, the town had one of the worst shop vacancy rates in the country. The market re-development has helped bring the town centre back from a 25% vacancy rate in 2014 to 10% today and now turns over £5m a year.



Case Study - Hebden Bridge Town Hall

The Grade II listed Town Hall, Hebden Bridge is one of a handful of community-owned Town Halls in the UK and is a symbol of what a community can do when it pulls together with a common ambition and vision. In 2008 the Hebden Bridge Community Association was formed. Through an innovating Asset Transfer Scheme, the community association acquired the council offices from Calderdale Council on a 125 year lease. The vision was to transform, what was at the time, a barely used building falling into disrepair into a state-of-the-art centre for community and creative enterprise - putting it back at the centre of the town's civic life as the Town Hall.

The Town Hall combines a range of services for local people and crucially, creative businesses that reflect the town's dynamic, independent spirit. Offering a range of office units for businesses, a cafe and one of the largest conferencing and event venues in the Calder Valley. The Town Hall is also fully licensed for weddings and civil partnerships.

"The Hebden Bridge Arts Festival moved into the Town Hall 3 years ago and it is the perfect home for us. The Town Hall operates so brilliantly and organically as a community hub - both as a venue and a community connector. There is no event too big or too small for this can do organisation. Everyone is catered for - literally in the wonderfully friendly cafe - and in the diverse array of events on offer. Drop in on any day of the week and there will be something going on, coming up, or people that you know. Business of event, leisure or pleasure, it really is the heart of the local community and has the community at its heart." Helen Meller, Director, Hebden Bridge