

Finalising Burnside Square

As part of the £15million Campbeltown Flood Protection Scheme a number of consultation events have been undertaken in the town:

- Four full Public Consultation Events running from 2018 until 2021 during the design phase of project,
- An Open Day in Burnside Square at the start of the works to provide information on how they would be delivered, and how important communication and engagement is to the successful delivery of the project. ,

We then asked the community, through an online consultation in the Autumn of 2022, what their preference was for Burnside Square, which has had a flood attenuation tank installed under it to safely store then discharge water:

The consultation on how the Campbeltown Community would prefer to use Burnside Square in the future provided the following results:

Use	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Flexible space	275	48%
Car park	51	9%
Events space	232	41%
Other	11	2%

As a result we agreed a general statement of intent, which was:

Burnside Square is a flexible public events space, and when not being used for events it is a public car park.

We progressed with plans for a flexible space, based on agreed criteria. Below is an update against each of the requests

REQUEST	UPDATE
Retain the existing car park access as an entrance only and add a new exit onto Union Street, with the car park therefore operating on a one-way basis.	<p>Complete</p> <p>To facilitate the safe exit of cars onto Union Street we have had to slightly extend the existing on-street parking restrictions</p> <p>This was necessary to ensure there is a safe swept path for all vehicles [including vans] to safely exit the car park.</p> <p>The car park provides for 20 safely managed spaces, with three of these specific accessible spaces.</p>
Remove the existing planters and do not replace them. This was on the basis that space can then be maximised for community use.	By the time we discussed and agreed this, planters had already been included within the overall contract, and cancelling them would have incurred costs/contractual penalties. With that in mind we

	<p>had them delivered anyway, and this exercise is part of confirming the final arrangements for the planters</p>
<p>Install an appropriate number of poles around the Square to facilitate community decorative lighting and hanging baskets. Explore the possibility of electricity points in, or at some or all of these poles.</p> <p>POST MEETING NOTE – the existing amenity heritage lighting columns around the square appear to be suitable for this purpose. Subject to design checks these columns will be used for this purpose.</p>	<p>Lighting Columns:</p> <p>We have instructed the contractor to refurb and reinstall the previous units.</p> <p>We can facilitate requests for hanging baskets from local businesses/community groups as and when we receive these. Note – the Council does not provide hanging baskets [previous policy saving]</p> <p>In-Ground Power:</p> <p>We have had ducting installed and, as part of the regular mailshots, have asked users for their feedback on what they would be looking to power, and this subsequent consultation exercise will help to pull views together.</p> <p>We can progress with the units outwith the Flood Scheme contract once we are clear on what users want.</p> <p>A copy of what was issued previously is below:</p> <p><i>To help us get a better understanding for the technical requirements for the electrical points, we would like to hear from anyone who has experience of hosting events in the Square. This will give us an insight into how you would like to use power points for events [what sort of things you might need power for] so that we can design something which meets the needs of local events as far as possible. We have a list of event organisers who we are going to be writing to shortly, but would be grateful to anyone on this mailing list who passes this message on or comes back to us. You can email your ideas about event power to roadsandinfrastructure@argyll-bute.gov.uk</i></p>
<p>Sensitively block off vehicular access to Harvey’s Lane and Cross Street.</p>	<p>AECOM continue with designs for this and are looking into undertaking these works separately to the main Burnside Square works.</p>

	<p>It may be possible to use some of the smaller new planters mentioned above, as long as these could be secured.</p>
<p>Maximise the available width in the pedestrianised areas for the businesses on those streets to have outdoor seating while still providing a pedestrian walkway – this effectively provides similar width of pedestrianised area on both sides of the square.</p>	<p>In terms of maximising the available footway space on Harvey’s Lane in particular, the intention behind this request was to ensure that there is a suitable space for the public walkway while also allowing space for the Burnside Bar to have some outdoor seating.</p> <p>There were however technical limitations to this, namely that the tank itself requires to be protected as it has a weight limit, hence why bollards are being installed around the Square. This will also provide a visual delineation and physical barrier for the car parking when the space is being used as a car park.</p> <p>Originally these were proposed to be in a straight alignment. The design solution for the tank itself changed over the course of the project due to technical considerations; this is why there are now manholes outside the Burnside Bar.</p> <p>This change in design has given us the opportunity to look at the overall bollard alignment, a section of which is already needing to be offset to accommodate the changes.</p> <p>The bollards were able to be realigned, which has effectively partially widen the public footway outside the Burnside Bar, which should provide more space for outdoor seating while retaining a suitable walking area for the public.</p>
<p>Install tie down points around the perimeter of the square for gazebos/stall for events.</p>	<p>Due to the construction of the tank beneath the Square, having suitable foundations in place for tie down points was going to be both challenging and costly.</p> <p>Instead we have opted for the provision of heavy blocks which will allow the safe tie-down of gazebos etc.</p> <p>The blocks are called Kelly or Kentlidge blocks.</p> <p>We will need to put a process in place to ensure these can be signed out and in – this may include asking users for a deposit. The intention would be to store these at our depot and give them out for events as agreed through the normal event application process.</p>

	There is no reason that their use would need to be limited to the Square – they could be used to support other local events as required.
Have a surface which is aesthetically as near to like for like as is reasonably practical.	Complete
Remove car parking from the centre of the car park – car parking spaces only around the perimeter. This was on the basis that the pedestrianised areas would be widened slightly, and also to allow the car park to work better/more safely. Exact number of spaces this would allow for to be confirmed. Note the existing arrangements is considered to be too tight for central parking, the widening of the pedestrianised area reduces the central width further.	Complete
Install specific disabled spaces at the Union Street side of the car park as an appropriate proportion to the number of overall spaces.	<p>We have received some feedback regarding the possibility of a disabled space for the Salvation Army facility on the opposite side of the Square from the current disabled spaces.</p> <p>This facility benefits from on-street parking already, and if they wish to apply for an on-street disabled bay this is something that would provide a better solution, and one we would be happy to look at, in the normal way, irrespective of the Flood Scheme.</p>
Look to move the palm trees from the square to a local public site yet to be confirmed – accepting that it is not possible to guarantee that the trees will survive although reasonable endeavours will be made to preserve the trees.	Unfortunately none of the trees could be saved.
Offer the cherry trees to any organisation/local group who wishes to attempt to replant, subject to the organisation/group organising transport and planting.	Not able to move these due to age and previously damaged roots
Removing the planter outside the Burnside Bar earlier than was originally planned. We will explore this with the contractor and, if it can be facilitated, will be a formal instruction through the contract ahead of the main works in the square.	Done in Dec 2022 by Council teams
Additional Item:	Due to the request above to remove planters, this provides an option of outdoor spaces within the Square which could be used by local businesses to

Assist with definition of areas available for use to Burnside Square pubs for outdoor seating.

provide outdoor seating. They could look to use the spaces under licence.

The attached drawing shows the size of the spaces.

This could be of significant benefit to local businesses and would substantially increase the overall premises footprint/number of tables available for customers.