

News Release

from the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company



Date: 9 April 2009

Reference: GHURC/NJG

Railway Triangle plans up for consultation

Plans for a comprehensive regeneration of the Railway Triangle, one of the 'Magnificent Seven' sites leading Gloucester's urban renaissance, were largely welcomed by local people last week when the proposals went up for public discussion at Gloucester and District Irish Club, Horton Road, GL1 3QA Gloucester.

More than 100 people and businesses took time out to inspect the emerging regeneration proposals and the feedback was mainly positive, according to Mike Tilt, at The Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company (GHURC), which organised the exhibition. However, there were specific concerns over the impact of increased traffic and the need for adequate parking, which local residents say is already under strain. Concerns were also raised about access into the site from Metz Way.

"There is an overwhelming feeling that the entire Railway Triangle area needs comprehensive redevelopment," said Mike. "The mixed use proposals incorporating eco housing and employment, with a medi-park, health innovations centre and improved pedestrian and cycling links to the City centre were welcomed by most," he added.

Some re-iterated their wish to see a new railway station on the site, although Network Rail has previously ruled this out as unviable, although it has said that the future of Gloucester Central Station is not in doubt and has confirmed its intention to retain the station and to invest in improvements over the next 3 to 4 years.

The idea of community facilities and new public spaces including a linear park, were supported, as were the environmental aspects of the scheme.

The proposal of a local 'hub' within the Railway Triangle, to include two or three local shops and an attractive communal area where the local community could meet, was also welcomed.

The masterplan proposals on display covered the entire area, of over 40 hectares (approximately 100 acres) - running East to West from the Bristol main railway line (parallel to Eastern Avenue) to Gloucester Central Railway Station and North to South from Armscroft Park to the Southern Railway Triangle - was prepared by a multi-disciplinary team of consultants led by GVA Grimley.

"All the views and opinions expressed at the consultation have been recorded and will be explored in detail with the masterplanning team," said Mike.

Editors' notes

Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company (GHURC) Ltd

The GHURC area includes 33 ancient monuments, 490 listed buildings, including 37 Grade 1 and 51 Grade II* listed and 36 buildings on the 'At Risk' register. A quarter of the Gloucester Heritage URC area, 88 hectares, is covered by conservation area designations.

The GHURC 10-year plan is based on the regeneration of seven key sites within the City centre. Nicknamed the 'Magnificent Seven', these are: Gloucester Docks, Gloucester Quays, The Railway Triangle, King's Square, Greyfriars, Blackfriars/Westgate Quay and The Canal Corridor. Alongside these projects, Gloucester Heritage URC is planning an integrated public realm and public art strategy linking together the key developments.

www.gloucesterurc.co.uk