

NEWS RELEASE



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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Annex E

THUMBS UP FOR MARKET PLACE IMPROVEMENTS

It's a thumbs-up so far for plans by Wokingham Borough Council and Wokingham Town Council to improve Market Place.

At two public events officers from both councils talked through emerging ideas for Market Place based on comments received so far, set within the context of the site's constraints.

People attending were overwhelmingly positive about the plans, and happy this area is being maintained and safeguarded as the heart of the town. They were also very supportive about proposals to include high quality natural paving stones.

More than 35 people also attended a workshop to discuss things including materials, street furniture, and signage – for both Market Place and the new public square in Peach Place - which will be created when the latter is redeveloped in 2017.

The main feedback from both the workshop and two events was the desire to ensure the public spaces are flexible, both at Market Place and Peach Place, so they can be used for a variety of events and different types of markets.

There was also interest in creating public art to reflect the town itself and the key events from its history.

While Market Place and Peach Place are separate projects they would complement each other and it is envisaged common themes would flow through the town.

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“Public sessions such as these are crucial because we have to make sure we are creating the right environments for people, said Cllr John Kaiser, executive member for planning and highways at Wokingham Borough Council.

“So thank you to everyone who took the time to come along.”

Cllr Mark Ashwell, chairman of the amenities committee, at Wokingham Town Council, said: “I was delighted to see the community’s enthusiasm to offer their thoughts and ideas about the improvements to Market Place, and what this area and Peach Place should look like.

“Their comments and ideas were overwhelmingly positive and both project teams are now working through them to make sure they consider everything so that both these spaces are great areas for us all to enjoy.”

The public comments from the two events will be published soon on the borough council’s website at www.wokingham.gov.uk and also the town council’s www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk.

Detailed plans for Market Place will now be drawn up and shared publically early next year.

In the meantime, the display material is available in the Town Hall foyer and on the borough council’s website for anyone who was unable to get to the events or workshops:

www.wokingham.gov.uk/town-centre.

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Further information:

1. More from Cllr John Kaiser, executive member for planning and highways Wokingham Borough Council, on (0771) 419 2352 or email john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk
2. Alternatively contact Cllr Mark Ashwell, chairman of the amenities committee, at Wokingham Town Council, on (07976) 641 687 or email him on the contacts section at www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk