

Improving our Market Place



Newsletter 14
31/08/18

I am sure that everyone is pleased to see the Market Place being used once again, with people able to freely walk across the space and enjoy watching the world go by from the new seating. The mosaics are now emerging into view, offering colour and interest to the space, and in the evening the up-lighting is displaying the Town Hall architecture at its best.



minimising the domination of motor vehicles. Taking into consideration good practice and the feedback received from consultation - in particular from disability groups - we have maintained defined carriageways with both controlled and courtesy crossings, which are level with the pavement, to provide a choice of safe places to cross the roads.

Thank you for the feedback we have received in the last two weeks, all your comments are appreciated and where you have queried some features of the design these are being considered by WBC.

It will take us all a while to readjust to the newly refurbished area with many of you commenting on how much bigger it all appears, much of this is because the area to the west of the Town Hall has been levelled. This will allow for greater flexibility of use, whilst still maintaining access when necessary for servicing.

In response to some of your queries the Market Place has been designed to provide a safe and attractive space for both day-to-day use and special events, maximising the space available for people to circulate on foot whilst

A shallow kerb has been maintained to help define the edge of the carriageway (this is particularly important for people with visual impairment) but kept low to minimise the obstacle for people who are less mobile, including wheelchair and buggy users, if they choose to cross elsewhere (for example when the road is closed for special events). While the design is somewhat different to what we have been used to in Wokingham, similar schemes have been successful in many other locations and the design has been subject to the usual road safety audit process.

The controlled crossing has been retained between Barclays and Costa with a number of courtesy crossings, the approach to which are clearly marked by brass studs.



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A number of us have been appalled at the very poor driver behaviour where vehicles have been entering through the no-entry sign on Denmark Street onto the central market place itself. We are working with both the police and Civil Parking Enforcement Team to ensure that this behaviour stops. The experimental Traffic Regulation Order indicates that any access to the central area should be from the Boots side, exiting into the traffic flow on Denmark Street; loading is between 7-10am and 4-6pm with some limited permit entry for market traders and the Town Hall. Disabled parking and loading bays are positioned in front of Boots or on Denmark Street and we are encouraging these loading bays to be used wherever possible to limit activity on the central area.

Market Returns

Next week we are delighted that the market will be returning home. We offer our thanks to those traders



who have continued to work from the temporary location and to those residents and visitors who have also continued to shop with them. This has been a difficult period and it will be great to see a return to the new space which offers better facilities and more flexibility for trading. Thursday 6th sees the Farmers' Market and in the coming months the Town Council will be working hard encouraging and welcoming existing and new traders as we start to develop the market once more. Please come and support your local market.

Market Celebration

On September 15th the Town Council would like to welcome everyone to a celebration on Market Place where traders and a number of our local retailers and restaurants will be offering tastings and promoting their businesses. Come and join us for a day filled with entertainment and activities for all the family, we are combining this with our annual Heritage Day with the Town Hall open showcasing Extraordinary Women.



Finally

This will be the last newsletter as the Market Place refurbishment draws to a close. Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest in the project; it has been a difficult and challenging experience for our town but the refurbished space will last for many, many years. Whether you have raised queries or complaints, phoned to find out more information or sent comments to help the project every interaction has been appreciated.

We will be in touch separately to see if you would like to keep in touch about other projects or on-going events etc in the town.

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