

Making the most of our public spaces

So, exactly what will these changes be? Well, putting a new entrance on the north side seems impractical for the moment, what with the volume of traffic using that side of the square, but two new entrances on the east and west are very doable – together with gravel paths leading from them to the obelisk – as is a general refurbishment of the Square: newly painted railings, for instance, and a thinning out of the various trees’ canopies, allowing more light to get to ground level.

“I love Bath, and consider it a privilege to live and work in such a beautiful city,” says Vaughan Thompson, the town planner and Bath resident who’s become a driving force behind the project. “So I felt the combination of The Diamond Jubilee and the 25th anniversary of Bath’s World Heritage status, also in 2012, was a good time to show how much we value it. Queen Square is the cradle of Bath’s Georgian splendour, but in need of some TLC; I look forward to the community around the Square coming together to help create a beautiful and living space for the future, another jewel for our World Heritage city.”

Amongst those backing the project are solicitors Thrings and creative agency Radio, as well as the Mayor of Bath, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, The Federation of Bath Residents Associations, The Francis Hotel, MacLaughlin Ross, Callidus Transport and Engineering, construction consultants Bare Leaning and Bare, and Bristol landscape architects Novell Tullett – most of whom have helped contribute to the plans.

To find out more, email: queensquare_bath_ambition@placestudio.com. We’ll be covering the development of this plan, and the ways in which the community comes together to realise it, over the months ahead. But make no mistake: big things are happening, and they’ll happen all the faster the more of us get involved. **BL**



Thinner trees add light



A series of temporary street closures will change the feel of the Square



The potential pool lit up at night: part of the project’s possible second stage

Why Queen Square deserves our love

Firmly behind The Queen Square Project, the great and the good speak out

“Queen Square is still highly fashionable, 280 years after being built. It demonstrates the innovation, craftsmanship, elegance and enduring quality which epitomises Bath. Businesses recognise this, which is why this remains such a desirable address, and a wonderful spot to linger in; we have the desire to improve the pedestrian experience in special areas like this one.”

Cllr Cherry Beath, Bath & North East Somerset Council’s Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

“Queen Square, John Wood’s first significant step in reinventing Bath, influenced style throughout Britain, Europe and North America. Georgian Bath is recognised as being of outstanding universal value to the whole of humanity, and Queen Square is a jewel in this crown.”

Tony Crouch, Bath & North East Somerset Council’s World Heritage Manager

“In order to make the city better for people we need to ensure that some of our areas do not continue to be dominated by traffic. Queen Square is probably the most beautiful roundabout in the country. Experimental closures will show us what the Square can really be like.”

Cllr Roger Symonds, Bath & North East Somerset Council’s Cabinet Member for Transport

“As Ward Councillor, I welcome any improvements to Queen Square and its environment, which will benefit local residents and businesses around the Square. In my role as Mayor of Bath I am delighted to see a project which will enhance Queen Square for the residents of Bath and visitors to the city, particularly this being 25th year of Bath gaining ‘World Heritage’ status.”

Cllr Andy Furse, Mayor of Bath

“The Bath Preservation Trust undertook the repair of the Queen Square obelisk, the re-carving of the tablet and the complete restoration of the railings surrounding the Square as a fitting commemorative gesture for the Queen’s Jubilee in 1977. The Trust has reviewed the concept design proposals [for The Queen Square Project] and is fully supportive of further enhancements that would restore the historic design and features of the Square.”

The Bath Preservation Trust