

VECTOR DESIGN CONCEPTS

GREENWAY - PLAZA, PARK AND GARDEN

THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is derived and inspired from the covid pandemic as people have endured long term isolation and now face reintegration into society. Therefore, the scheme focusses on well-being, the interaction between people and places and the new understanding of 'space'. Space will represent three areas - public, private and transitional as people prefer open areas (public) whilst some still want protection (private) with transitional describing the space in between. From this the scheme uses the terms Hands, Face and Space as the main concept. This is then applied spatially, materialistically, and conceptually in order to successfully deliver the vision of a connected greenway. Firstly, Hands came to represent a need for tactile materials and spaces of play for all ages. Secondly, Face, the need for social interaction and face to face encounters; and finally, Space, to represent the need for outdoor green spaces that allow distance yet still have areas for socialising by incorporating spaces for the interaction of humans and nature. The themes of Hands, Face and Space will present itself throughout the whole scheme but particularly it can be implemented in three key areas to coincide with the three new garden communities.

The three key areas are urban square, village green/common land and parkland which are representative of the local characteristic of village greens, common lane, formal squares, and parkland.

To achieve the Garden Village concept the proposal aims to establish a distinct sense of identity through green and blue infrastructure including considering natural resilience to city wide issues of climate change, flood, drought and pollution. Furthermore, the proposal will aim to enhance the ecological function of an area and to support the community and wildlife that inhabit and surround it.

Inspiration has been taken from the urban grid, which is the landscape character of the surrounding areas, for example the formal grid patterns of Chatsworth Square, Carlisle and the rectilinear form of field patterns of Cumberdale. This has informed the layout providing areas where the views cross with each area designed to ensure sight lines and views are maintained throughout the greenway.

The views are transformed into an orientation feature with key accessible pathways that are 2m wide with generous space between each one, influenced by the rules of the covid pandemic (2m spacing). The layout means that space between pathways can be turned into a variety of forms including grassland, shrub planting, cycle lanes and water features. These can also create tree lined approaches into the space to reflect the local character.

Secondary pathways are informed from the existing pastoral field patterns/boundaries which will now create 1m wide informal pathway to reference the rules during the covid pandemic (1m spacing) The boundaries are frequently defined as hedgerows and scattered tree planting which defines the visual character of the area whilst providing connected wildlife habitat through the shelter and food they provide. Therefore, all existing vegetation is to be retained particularly semi-natural ancient woodland at Toddhills Wood to the west of Carlisle Racecourse, pockets of woodland and the enhancement of Tarn Plantation near Durdar.

The proposal aims to highlight the importance of nature and biodiversity as the existing and linear routes proposed alongside roads, pathways, field boundaries and waterways are important sight lines for nocturnal feeders. The landscaping will include the following in different scales; species rich grassland, wildflower strips, swales, native tree, hedge and shrub planting, ornamental and specimen shrub planting with permeable hard materials.

Proposed linear routes will have the potential to extend existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) into the wider landscape/masterplan and thus into the Greenway. High quality public realm will be created by introducing formal and informal footpaths that frame sightlines and views. The Greenway will ensure the feeling of space is retained so that it can evolve over time to produce a healthy landscape (a healthy landscape is described as a place to promote good health and wellbeing)

Furthermore, the restriction of the gas line provided opportunity to separate the area into hard and soft landscaping.

THE URBAN SQUARE

The urban square is predominantly one of the main activity points within the scheme and is reflective of the local character of Dalston Square and aims to modernise a formal village. St Cuthbert's Plaza will be a generous space with hard landscaping to create a sociable and thriving public realm. This versatile space will be used for special events such as community market trading, workshops and musical events. This will increase the cultural and

social value of the Greenway. The space will be covered with a landmark canopy representative of 'the mask' and face element of the conceptual theme. Nestled within the urban square are informal and formal play areas with splash water features, community lido and architectural structures/features. This includes artistic forms to frame the landscape and define key routes. Design will focus on the integration of social interaction for example Wi-Fi hotspots so that users can access a digital platform to use the nature walk and cycling route app to promote healthy lifestyle. Similarly, interventions such as 'talking benches' will tackle loneliness as well as ensuring an inclusive space.

The lighting within the Urban Square and Village Green will give a sense of destination and will ensure people feel safe and secure to increase social engagement and involvement. A considered lighting scheme will encourage people to explore, roam and engage with their surroundings by indicating travel/circulation zones and denote and identify key locations and nodes.

VILLAGE GREEN / COMMON LAND

A beautifully designed and crafted structure will provide a range of amenities such as a kiosk, pavilion, and village café with lido to attract investment. The materials will be reflective of the local character including striking diaper/chequerboard brickwork, warm sandstone detailing, stone quoins and splashes of white and pastel render. However, timber and glass will be proposed to create organic community hub which will be designed away from traffic noise to create a quiet façade. The space aims to combine the best of urban and rural living to create a dynamic place so that residents have a high quality of life with access to everything they need for a healthy and successful life.

This space will continue to show the culture and heritage of the surrounding areas by including a sculptural horse close to the building to represent Carlisle racecourse. Open space will be dedicated to a Covid memorial water feature and memorial gardens which will become a key directional nodal and anchor point within the scheme. The memorial will be to those who have lost their lives through the pandemic, its physical appearance will form a rainbow and will sit within water.

Amenity space within this area will dedicate open space provisions not only to parks and gardens (as stated in St Cuthberts Garden Village Masterplan Framework) but will focus on physical activity and mental wellbeing as sport activities including features such as football, rugby and hockey with areas for outdoor sports such as athletics, tennis and skate park. A large cycle and running track will become a key feature will a large natural outdoor wild swimming facility. To embrace a core value of the garden village movement (food and food production as a shared resource) community allotments and orchards will ensure the community is connected to food production. This provision dedicated to allowing space to grow edible planting creates a link to the surrounding farm and produce agricultural heritage and network.

PARKLAND

Amenity green spaces and natural/ semi natural grasslands within the parkland will use nature to create a linked ecosystem with woodlands, fields, and waterways to create a biodiverse and socially cohesive environment. The focus of this area is to highlight the natural elements that people value ie woodland, hedgerows, field patterns and pasture so that users will interact with the environment by encouraging agroforestry and outdoor community education, workshops and school programmes.

The space will represent ecology and nature with gateways to create a sense of arrival which is inspired by the Gatehouses at Brisco. The Gatehouses will shape the character, identity, and legibility of communities within the Garden Village. Briscos informal farmstead courtyard typologies will be represented by ensuring the existing field/farmland boundaries are retained and enhanced. The area will focus on habitat preservation, restoration, and the creation for biodiversity net gain (minimum 10%) through the planting of trees with a focus on having climate adaption, enriched hedgerows to improve ecological links and enhance depleted agricultural land. Although intervention is needed to create landscape buffers and wildflower areas, space will also be left to re-wild to ensure the landscape can evolve naturally. This includes the creation of ecological habitats that will form a nature and sculpture trail.

Connecting attenuation ponds with the proposed blue infrastructure is a key valuable addition. This includes the creation of a riparian buffer which is a characteristic of the area (River Petteril). This alongside strategically placed SUDS will be to the continued benefit of water quality and riparian wildlife.

OUR TEAM

The submission has been made by the following individuals on behalf of Vector Design Concepts. Faye Walton (Landscape Architecture – Associate member of the Landscape Institute 23954), Laura Ford (Graphic Design) and Vicky Flintoff (interior Architecture/heritage consultant) however assisted by various colleagues from Vector Design Concepts and The Harris Partnership. Vector is a group of designers based in West Yorkshire, working primarily within the architectural industry. Our staff are creative, dedicated and highly experienced in Landscape Architecture, Interior Architecture, graphics and 3D visualisation. Previous projects include, retail, leisure, office, mixed use, industrial and public realm. We have an extensive client base with projects such as award-winning mixed-use development at Former Northallerton HMP, Residential development at Devonshire Park, Paignton, public realm development for a school memorial garden, Castleford, mixed use development at The Old Gas Works, Sutton and public retail and leisure development at Flemingate, Beverley all of which has public open space as an integral part of the scheme. We work closely with ecologists and engineers to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) by introducing vegetated swales, rain gardens and hydro planters in order to slow the flow and cleanse storm water whilst improving the amenity and biodiversity value of sites.

The graphics and 3D team are key in producing imagery for public consultation and produce accurate visual representations to give audiences a sense of a place, space and understanding. The graphics team are experienced in producing wayfinding posts, for example Waddon ponds directional signage and the interior team have excellent knowledge in materiality and public space both internally and externally for example public space concourse at Lower Precinct, Coventry.

Collaboration is central to our projects as Vector is a sister company to the Harris Partnership and Harris Project management. We work as a team daily on projects in our shared office. Vector produce work for all of the Harris partnership offices including within our base office in Wakefield and offices in Manchester, London, Newport Pagnell and Reading. This means we have the opportunity to work on projects all over the UK. We work to the latest information and BIM industry good practice workflows and standards including ISO 19650 SERIES.

EIGHT THEMES

1 -Connectivity

The Greenway is significant in connecting Durdar to the adjacent neighbourhoods of Carleton and Cummersdale by including links to National Cycle Route 7 and to the CSLR. Active travel is centred around the community with a key link created into Carlisle, this means that travel is a key asset to ensure that everyone will have ease of access to high quality spaces for sport and recreation. Walkways are strategically positioned to connect to both proposed and existing access roads in the wider development including primary and secondary roads with additional informal paths added in key locations. Most significantly the pathways will ensure connection into the public right of way (PROW 1290011 AND 129006) are maintained and enhanced. This means both walking and cycling routes are available.

2 -Green infrastructure

Green infrastructure is defined as networks of green spaces that deliver multiple quality of life and environmental benefits for communities. The proposal achieves this by including parks, green spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments, and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) all designed around maintaining and framing existing views. This structure provides multiple scales of activity to increase the network of biodiversity (minimum 10% BNG) and habitat connectivity while tackling climate change by providing shading, storing carbon, improving soundscape and air cooling as well as reducing surface water run-off and increasing access to nature. On a smaller scale public and memorial gardens can improve the wellbeing of a local community to provide spaces for people as well as the environment.

The proposal follows good design principles by understanding the landscape and its natural assets such as trees and woodlands, rivers, floodplains and ancient hedgerows. Therefore, natural assets are retained and enhanced with areas kept more natural as it reaches the outer edges of the greenway in order to create appropriate buffers for long term character identity. The design is also influenced by the high-pressure gas pipeline that runs underneath the Greenway; this is reflected in the structure of the design to ensure that limited volumes of people use the space and that the area is accessible for maintenance.

It is well documented that access to good quality green infrastructure improves people's mental and physical health

and wellbeing. Therefore, the proposals aims are to improve users mental and physical health by encouraging physical activity, reducing air pollution, and protecting against climate change.

3 -Sustainable Drainage

The proposal will determine a flood risk management plan and incorporate flood prevention and mitigation measures. On key factor will be to tackle the water footprint by reducing flooding through the creation of attenuation ponds and swales. The Sustainable urban Drainage (SUDS) connect to existing blue infrastructure and will aim to address and reduce potential flooding risks, hazards and dangers. Flood management techniques will be adopted through the creation of areas for water storage and by increasing surface roughness. The inclusion of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) will create an environment that reduces the risk of contaminated flooding and prevents water pollution, through the addition of permeable surfaces and infiltration.

The proposed canopy design will incorporate greywater harvesting technology for non-potable use on site and contain rain harvesting features through using a good selection of materials that will ensure users are protected during poor weather conditions and rainwater can be distributed and utilised on soft landscaping elements and allotment areas.

4 – Climate Change resilience

To contribute towards Carlisle City Council ambition to be zero carbon by 2030, qualitative climate change analysis will be conducted over short-long term timescales to assess the localised impact these risks will have on the overall proposed site. This will be achieved by using responsibly sourced materials that consider life cycle such as 100% of timber from sustainable sources (FSC) and use recycled materials. Energy will be investigated so that cost effective renewable energy sources are provided for heat and power that are determined to be cost effective for example energy efficiency lighting facilities.

The proposal will conserve, maintain, and enhance the biodiversity value of the site including working with local initiatives to improve air quality to support air quality management targets and actions for the area. Carbon capture is encouraged by a landscape maintenance scheme, allowing the land to re-wild and evolve naturally and promoting the use for Carbon4grass (Carbon4grass is grassland to sequester more carbon).

5 – Interface with the surrounding environment

The proposal provides a positive interface with the adjacent built environment by ensuring movement and connectivity throughout the scheme. This includes the introduction of buffer planting to provide visual screening and sound barrier whilst still allowing views into the greenway. The design is developed to ensure views are maintained to create safe movement corridors and that the scheme is connected to primary and secondary roads within the wider development. The design reflects the natural assets of the existing farmland boundaries by enhancing the boundaries as public pathways.

6 - Health and wellbeing

Healthy environments will be promoted so that small increases in regular physical activity to lower death rates and lower rates of heart disease and depression is easily available. People will be encouraged to walk, cycle and most importantly play in a space that is pedestrianised and away from traffic noise, smells and pollution. Taking inspiration from 'Get Active' in Ebbsfleet where a range of projects to encourage residents to be more physically active. One being a free NHS funded smartphone app offering rewards also known as 'BetterPoints' for engaging in physical activity. The points are then swapped for digital 'vouchers' either to spend in local shops or to donate to charity. Similarly, the 'Incredible Edible' movement can be applied in the same way as 'Edible Ebbsfleet'. This is run by a group of local gardeners called 'No Walls Gardens' who were commissioned to start 10 small growing projects on unused land.

Mental health and well-being are related to all facets of spatial design, with increasing attention being paid to the built environment as an important predictor of measures of mental well-being. The aim will be to draw in nature to improve air quality, allow the user to experience natural sounds and feel part of nature. Lighting will change seasonally to respond to SAD disorder and community spaces will combat isolation and loneliness.

7 – Inclusive and accessible

The proposal links communities and promotes active travel with a variety of inclusive activity spaces for all users.

To ensure the space is inclusive and accessible to all ages and level of mobility features such as step free accesses, signposting/wayfinding and suitably designed seating is provided throughout the scheme. For people to feel safe routes are provided with attractive views and safe lighting with trip-free surfaces. Technology will be introduced to improve wayfinding and physical activity by providing wi-fi hotspots, electronic charging points, and activity tracking.

As it is imagined that the proposal will become a destination point for the wider community facilities/buildings will have spaces for buggy and cycle parking with passive surveillance measures to ensure safety and security.

The natural topography will be maintained in most of the greenway especially the levels around the gas pipe, furthermore directional pathways will naturally flow to frame main views.

8 – How the proposals might encourage a sense of ownership to aid with long term management and maintenance

To encourage a sense of ownership the proposal will continue to encourage community engagement through individuals, community groups up to organisations. This includes opportunities for groups less likely to get involved, for example Men's Sheds, which are being implemented in Barking Riverside in London and elsewhere to engage older, more economically dis-advantaged men, who are at high risk of social exclusion. The aim will be to capture the interest and involvement of local people and organisations to develop a relationship to ensure the project is understood by stakeholders and the community.