

Welcome and introduction

Through the Folkestone – A Brighter Future project Folkestone & Hythe District Council aims to transform Folkestone town using £19.8 million from the government’s Levelling Up fund.

This public engagement event details proposals being considered for the third phase of the project which mainly focusses on proposed improvements to Guildhall Street and the pedestrianised area of Sandgate Road. Early plans for Bouverie Square (the current bus station) have been redesigned based on feedback provided by the community at our last event in November 2023.

Along Guildhall Street and Sandgate Road, additional planting and rain gardens are proposed, as well as designated areas that could be used for market stalls and events. The intention is to make good the cobblestones and generally improve the look and feel of the market area for traders and consumers alike.

Detailed designs for phase one are on display and there’s an opportunity to see the changes from Station Approach down Cheriton Road and onto Middelburg Square. There are also updated designs for Shellons Street, changed as a result of feedback from our phase two public engagement events.

For the first time, you can also get a view of the project area in its entirety and give your views on how the scheme flows. To help you see how these proposed changes would look, we’ve created a virtual reality model of the area. Why not take a magic carpet ride around the Folkestone of the future? A pre-event booking system was set up to help manage demand, but if you haven’t booked in advance we’ll still try and find you a seat on the carpet ride – just speak to a member of the team to find out more.

Responses to phase two engagement feedback

Thank you to everyone who gave us their views after the previous public engagement events.

Your views and comments help us understand if you think the project is going in the right direction and what needs to change. Your feedback so far has been essential in refining the scheme to make it work better for the community.

The proposals will bring about positive benefits to the town but we realise that not everyone will be in favour of what is decided. Our engagement events help us understand the areas that are most liked and those which are least liked. We can reflect this feedback in the final designs where budget allows.

We've changed elements of phase two of the scheme as a result of your feedback including proposing the introduction of a 20mph speed limit for Cheriton Road, Cheriton Gardens and the roads within the 'triangle' between them.

You can see the feedback on the different elements of phase two on our website: folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/luf-public-engagement-Nov23 or by scanning the QR code on your smart phone device.





Project overview

The Folkestone – A Brighter Future scheme is a large project so it's being delivered in three phases:

Phase 1

The first phase of Folkestone – A Brighter Future will bring significant improvements to the complicated road system around Folkestone Central train station and to Cheriton Road and Cheriton Gardens, leading to Middelburg Square.

The existing road layout is a legacy from when Folkestone was a busy ferry port. The project aims to address this through improved signage and links to the town centre will be created making it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to find their way.

The proposals for phase one were the subject of consultation in July 2023.

Phase 2

Phase two of the project focusses on the town centre itself, including proposed alterations to the bus station.

Proposals for this phase include moving the bus station from Bouverie Square to Middelburg Square. Bus stops will extend around the north and south sides of the area. These changes aim to create a pedestrian-friendly transport hub environment and enable Bouverie Square to return to landscaped green space.

A new green area will be created where Foresters Way currently is, running alongside Shellons Street. A new link between Guildhall Street North and Guildhall Street will be developed to make it easier to cross the road into town, across Shellons Street. This will help link the area north of Shellons Street to the town centre.

The proposals for phase two were the subject of consultation in November 2023.

Phase 3

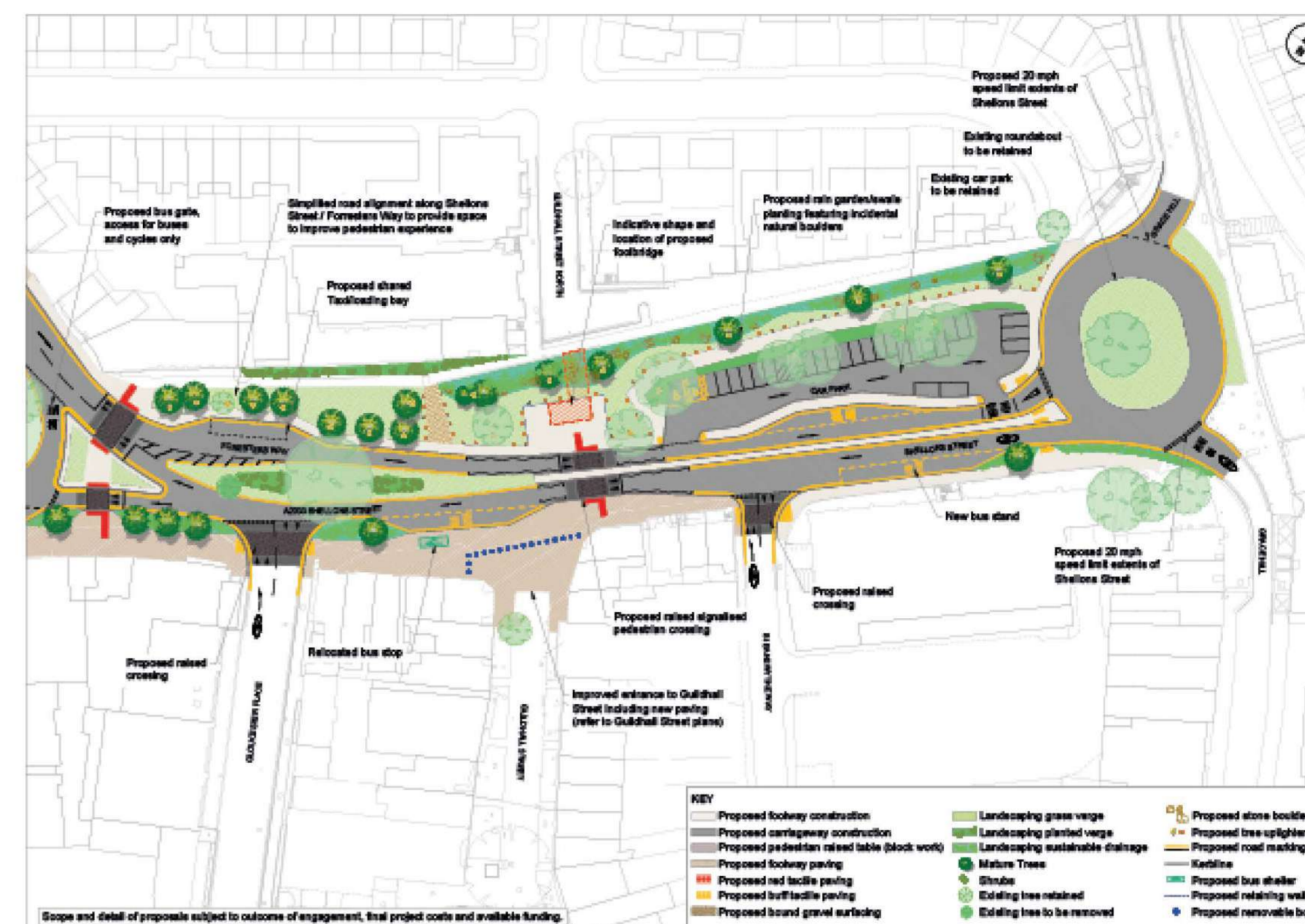
Phase three of the project focusses on proposed improvements to Guildhall Street and the pedestrianised area of Sandgate Road. At this event early concept plans for Bouverie Square (the current bus station) will be shared. These have been designed based on the feedback provided by the community at our last event in November 2023.

Phase two – revised design Shellons Street

The original design of Shellons Street has been updated following feedback from our previous consultation events concerning the removal of the existing mature trees.

The current design iteration has now been changed to include many of the mature trees which had previously been shown as being removed. Of particular concern to those that attended the consultation event was the removal of the large mature tree opposite the entrance to Gloucester place. Following this feedback, the proposals have been amended to allow the tree to remain.

The updated design uses the existing carriageway infrastructure as much as possible to reduce tree removals. The new design works for both traffic and pedestrians with the additional benefit of providing increased opportunities for planted areas. These areas include opportunities where sustainable urban drainage and further planting can be provided whilst still providing the pedestrian bridge connection from Guildhall Street North to Guildhall Street.



Phase three Guildhall Street



The new proposed designs for both Guildhall Street and Sandgate Road include:

- Additional planting
- Rain gardens
- Designated areas for market stalls



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Phase three Sandgate Road



The designs aim to create a decluttered environment, free of redundant street furniture. Broken cobblestones will be repaired and the idea is to generally improve the look and feel of the market area for traders and consumers alike.

Phase three Bouverie Square

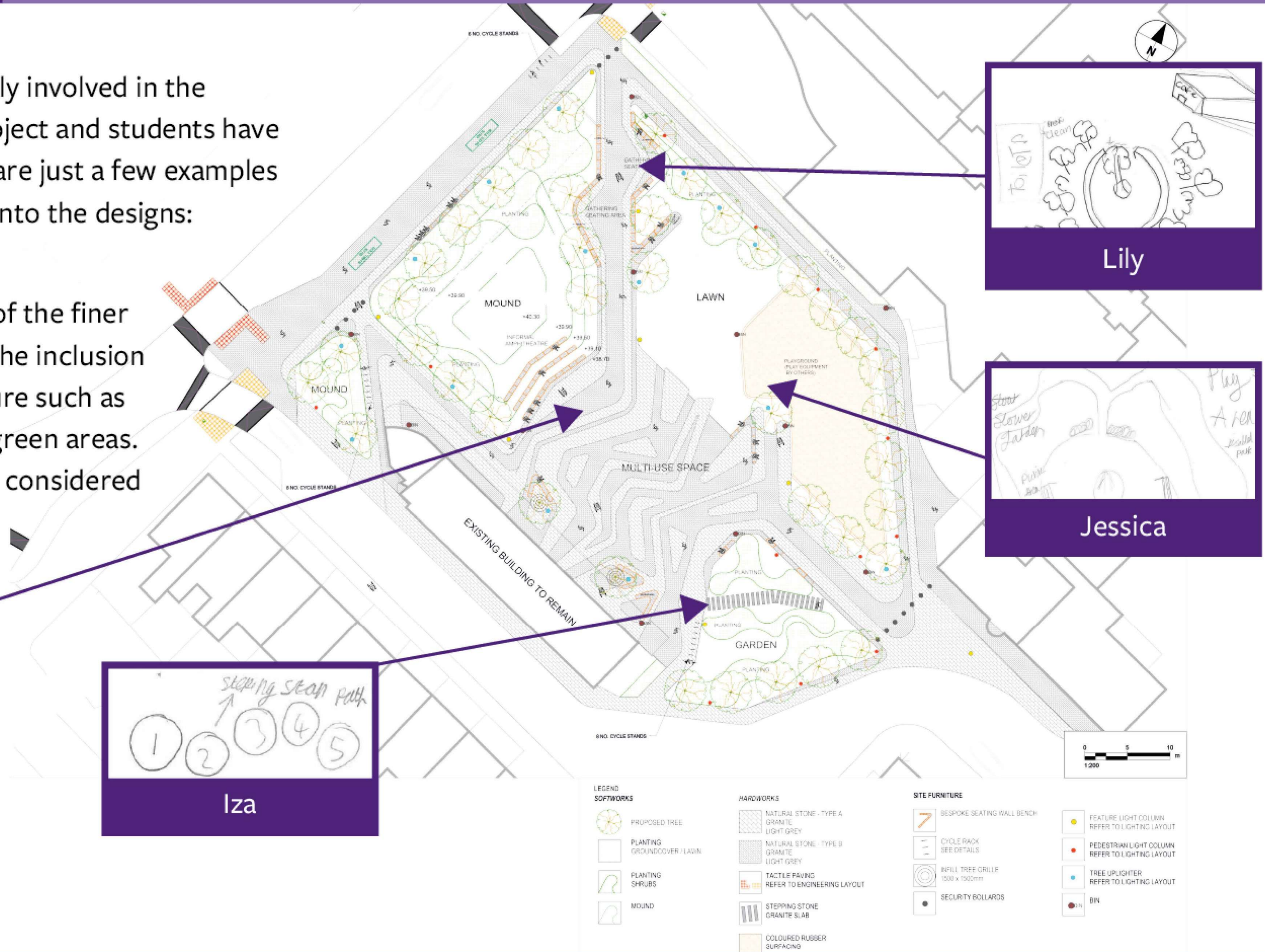
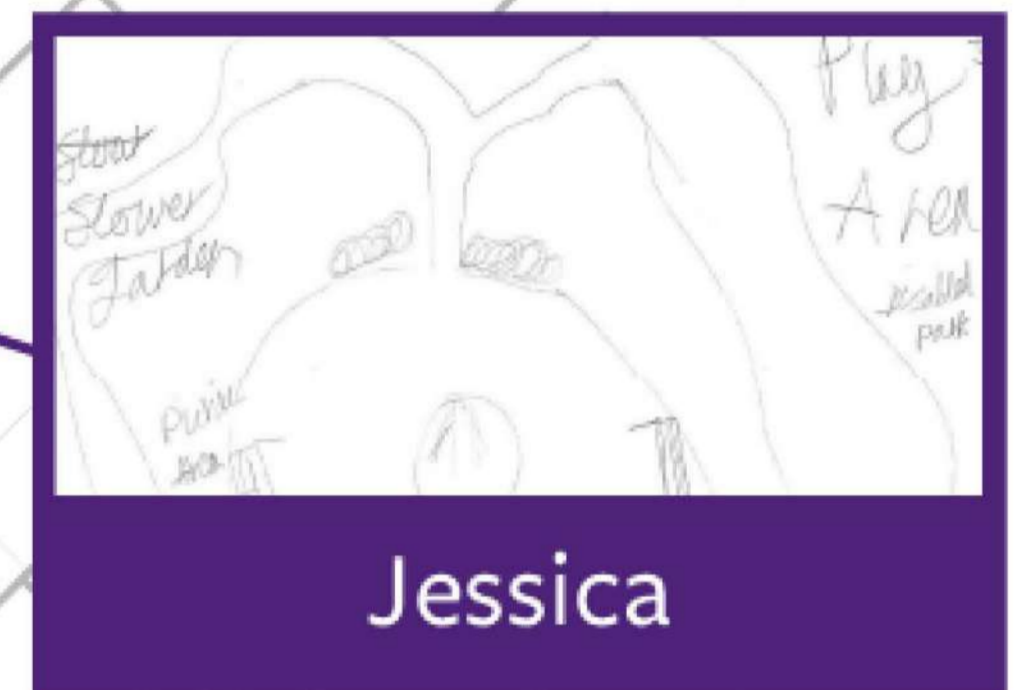
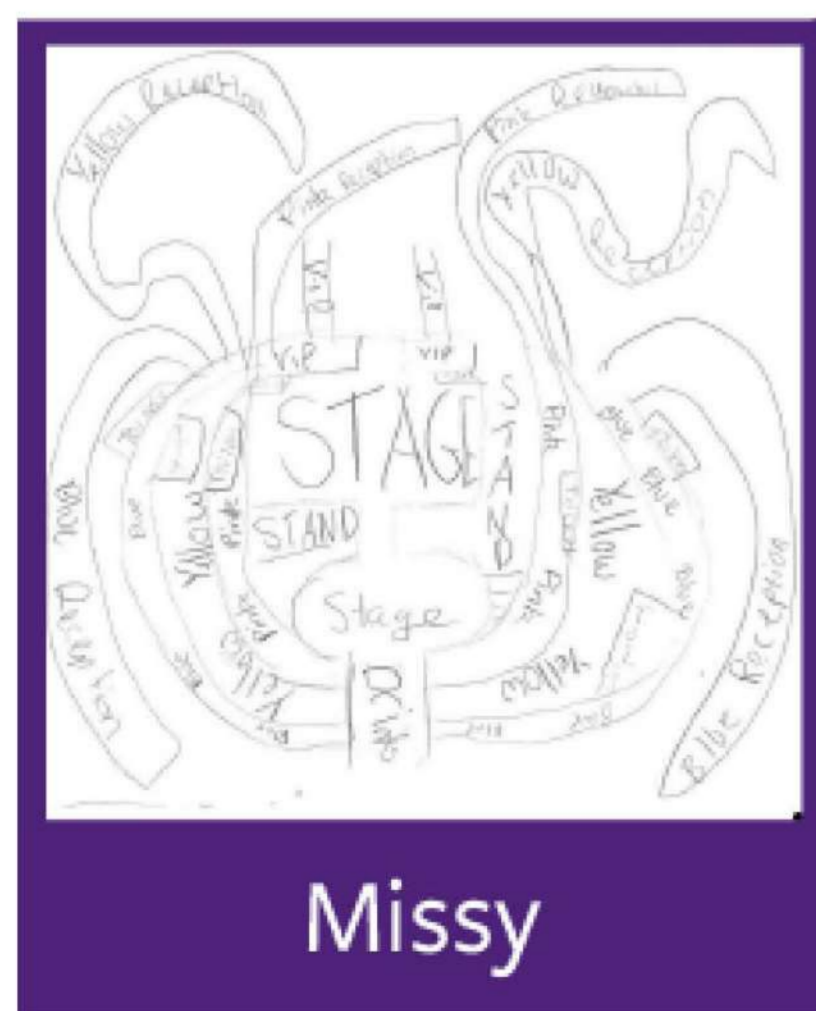
The proposed bus station move means the space at Bouverie Square can be turned into a welcoming area for all. These early designs show how a community gathering space could be created including a children's play area, green landscaping and a multi-use event space. The multi-use events space could be used to host seasonal events such as ice skating, outdoor cinemas, art installations, community events and Christmas markets.



Phase three How children have influenced the designs

Several schools have been heavily involved in the engagement process for the project and students have made lots of suggestions. Here are just a few examples of how these have been woven into the designs:

There were also some great recommendations about some of the finer details of the project including the inclusion of sustainable elements for nature such as bird boxes or bug hotels in the green areas. These recommendations will be considered closer to the end of the project.





Tell us what you think!

Now you have an idea of the proposed changes and road layouts, we want to know what you think. Your views are important as you are the people who use this area.

As someone who knows Folkestone, lives, works or visits the area regularly, you are best placed to test and comment on the proposed scheme, so we are keen to get your views.

Please complete a survey which you can find on the table inside. If you would prefer, you can do this online at:

surveymonkey.com/r/FABFphase3 or by scanning the QR code on your smartphone or device.



We would like to know:

- If you live in the area, will these proposals make the town centre a more inviting place?
- If you have caring responsibilities, how will the mobility of those you care for be impacted?
- If you have additional mobility requirements, do you think these changes will make things easier for you?
- Do you cycle through the area? Will these proposals make it safer and easier for you to use your bicycle to travel?
- Do you drive through this area by car? How will these proposals affect you?
- What other ideas do you have?
- If you own a business will these proposals help your business operation and make the town a more inviting place for your customers?



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Next steps


Thank you for taking the time to visit today. If you haven't already, please complete a survey at the event or online. To comment online please visit: surveymonkey.com/r/FABFphase3 or scan the QR code below on your smartphone or other device.



You'll find the display board images and text on our website if you want to take another look or signpost family and friends towards them. All the feedback is important and will be considered during the detailed design stage of phase three.

Thank you for your comments.

As we move into the delivery phase of the Folkestone – A Brighter Future project we will publish more information on our website and on our social media channels.

 /FolkestoneandHytheDC

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 Folkestone and Hythe District Council

 @folkestonehythedc

If you have any questions about the project or require any alternative formats of this information please email: public.engagement@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk