

APPENDIX 4: PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

The public realm strategy has been formulated following an extensive analysis of the existing settlement centres. This identified a number of key issues that need to be addressed and what opportunities are available for improvement. The strategy outlines a number of strategic initiatives which will be undertaken as and when funding becomes available.

Public realm improvements are designed to reduce vehicular dominance, enhance the experience of all users and strengthen investor confidence. In addition, they will create a unique character and identity for the two centres, which encompasses the old and the new, and enhances local distinctiveness.

Earl Shilton

The design concept¹ aims to build upon Earl Shilton's existing character by using high quality, formal design to enhance its image. A primary objective is to reclaim the public realm from vehicles, which currently dominate and break up the linearity of Wood Street.

The concept proposes a partly shared space, using modern street furniture that relies on the language of materials, rather than traditional highway traffic calming measures, to increase the legibility of the public realm.

A long term aspiration is to transform the town centre into a viable and sustainable place for living and working. As a response to the towns manufacturing heritage, the concept incorporates a 'thread and stitch' which runs along the extent of Wood Street as a unifying element and creates pockets of interest in key locations.

There are opportunities for the 'thread and stitch' concept to be interpreted as a striking public art element, using contrasting bands/strips of contemporary materials which reflect the manufacturing heritage. It could also be used to position and structure the location of street furniture items – bollards, seating, trees, bins.

Using the principles of formality, unity, legibility and simplicity, the existing character of the town centre will be enhanced and its 'modern' landscape qualities emphasised; and an identity and structure for Earl Shilton will be created.

Design principles are communicated through 'raw materials', 'colour' and 'character and identity':

Raw Materials

Stainless steel, timber, contemporary lighting, specimen trees with an architectural and upright form.

¹ Earl Shilton & Barwell Public Realm Improvement Strategy (Capita Lovejoy, 2011)

Colour

Vibrant, bold, simple and coordinated colour palette.













Character and Identity

'High Street' with linear character used as an important pedestrian thoroughfare where people trade and goods and services are exchanged. Contemporary, simple, bold, formal, pedestrian friendly, flexible.

APPENDIX 4 FIGURE 1: EARL SHILTON DISTRICT CENTRE PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY



Legend

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|---|---|
|  | Proposed hub |  | Paved pedestrian surface |  | Covered bus stop |
|  | Existing war memorial |  | Shared surface |  | Cafe / bar spill out space / market space |
|  | Specimen trees |  | Tarmac roadway |  | Cycle stands |
|  | Main square feature paving / raised junction |  | Seating cubes / benches |  | Recessed lighting strips / banding |

Barwell

Barwell village centre has the feeling of a historic village. The diverse, predominantly small scale architecture spans several design ages, and the central area, from which main routes radiate out, is still the village heart.

This traditional and historic character is a reflection of the appearance of the rural landscape that surrounds the village. The scale, proportion and patterns found in the adjacent fields, hedgerows, paths and streams are evident in the urban form and materials used throughout the village. These elements have clearly been instrumental in the evolution of the village to date.

In developing proposals for improving Barwell village centre's public realm², the local landscape character should be exploited; emphasising and capturing the 'historic' landscape qualities. Field patterns, colours and materials found locally within the surrounding area should be used to give the centre identity and structure.

Design principles are communicated through 'raw materials', 'colour' and 'character & identity':

Raw Materials

Rustic timber and stone, native specimen tree planting.

Colour

Natural, bold, diverse, local.

Character and Identity

Ordered, proportional, pattern like, formal (radial), grounded.

² Earl Shilton & Barwell Public Realm Improvement Strategy (Capita Lovejoy, 2011)

APPENDIX 4 FIGURE 2: BARWELL DISTRICT CENTRE PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

