

Bids boost street works schemes

A bid for a further £4.5 million worth of funding has been submitted to Yorkshire Forward to support the further regeneration of Holbeck Urban Village.

The money, should the bid be successful, will be used to fund the design and installation of the Neville Street project designed by German artist Hans Peter Kuhn. This scheme is expected to result in a vast improvement to this important gateway, tackling issues such as lighting, sound insulation and community safety.

Other projects that could benefit from the bid are the ongoing skills audit to improve training and education in the area and support from the PCSOs.

A decision is expected to be reached by December 2006.

New health centre on the horizon

The future provision of GP services for Holbeck and the urban village is currently out to consultation with local communities.

The consultation is part of a city-wide proposal to improve the provision of GP services in a number of areas across Leeds. The proposal for Holbeck is still in development and Primary Care Trusts are consulting with the local community and stakeholders to ensure that services are accessible and provide the right kind of care for that particular community.

The consultation document is being distributed to voluntary and statutory organisations across Leeds and can be found at: www.leedsnortheastpct.nhs.uk/ppi/?page=Public+Consultations or www.holbeckurbanvillage.co.uk/feedback.

There will also be a number of events being organised in the near future for people to attend and give their views.

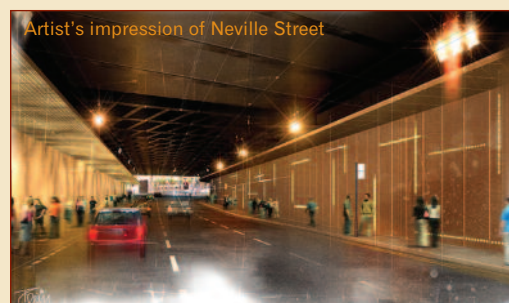
What kind of place do you think Holbeck Urban Village should be?

Proposals to re-open Sweet Street and redevelop the viaduct into a skywalk connecting Holbeck and Beeston Hill to the city centre have been welcomed by residents who took part in the 'What Kind of Place?' consultation.

The event featured in the last issue of this newsletter, was designed to showcase some of the proposals for Holbeck Urban Village including a dramatic new gateway to the city at Neville Street that includes an art installation and sound proofing measures such as porous asphalt and metal panelling.

Feedback from the consultation was on the whole positive but also gave the Holbeck Urban Village team new ideas and a greater insight into how the area could be used. Some of the key proposals that were consulted upon were the new scheme for the Dark Arches; the viaduct walkway; the re-opening of Sweet Street bridge; the improvement of the public realm and the involvement of arts in the area.

People who attended the consultation were asked questions such as: how important do you think it is to retain the history of the area; which design for the public realm do you think is best; how do you feel about an arts programme for the area; do you feel that a skywalk is the best use of the viaduct?



Comments about the scheme for Neville Street were mainly positive: "we approve of wider pavements and cycle lanes"; and "we like the murals that change from time to time." Many people also felt that as this is a gateway to the city it should be used to sign post key attractions. The general opinion was that people are keen to see this area being used for restaurants and businesses again.



The viaduct skywalk idea was well received by the community in general which felt it was "an excellent way to escape some of the city noise and harshness" and "a great place to enjoy the city skyline." Some people did raise concerns such as, "it needs to go 'to' and 'from' somewhere to be a worthwhile project" and others felt that it needs to link directly to the city station. Concerns about safety were also raised.

The proposed re-opening of Sweet Street bridge was generally met with positive comments as most people felt that this removed a 'no-go' area. Communities in Holbeck particularly approved of this scheme as it improves linkages for them and another access point into the urban village.

Some of the key points of feedback were to include a particular focus on the street design to allow routes for pedestrians and cyclists rather than vehicles; public facilities such as children's play areas would be welcomed; and future maintenance of the area is of great importance.

Comments were fed back to the design teams and project boards who re-visited the proposed schemes and tried to include views where possible. Further consultation is planned and will take place as each scheme progresses.

Read a fuller account of comments and responses and see more detailed proposals from the Holbeck Urban Village design team on-line at www.holbeckurbanvillage.co.uk/feedback

Arts in the area

Welcoming Wochenklausur



Wochenklausur and students from Leeds University

A group of Viennese artists called Wochenklausur recently completed a residential stay at Holbeck Urban Village. They are world renowned artists who work with communities to improve their situation. Their past experience includes work with the homeless, drug-users and crime-affected areas across the Europe.

Their brief in Holbeck was to find ways to bring together the communities from both sides of the viaduct. The viaduct is an imposing structure and often seen as a barrier, both physically and mentally,

between the city centre and communities to the south of the city.

Wochenklausur were resident in Leeds for four weeks and worked out of an office based in the Round Foundry. From here they contacted community leaders, local businesses in the communities of Holbeck and Beeston and in the city centre, community groups and key partners and developers from within Holbeck Urban Village.

Using the theme of 'work' they looked at how businesses from opposite sides of

the viaduct could come together. Under a theme of 'home' they focused on how local communities could work together to tackle issues such as homelessness and community safety in their respective neighbourhoods.

Other projects to come out of their stay include an art exhibition at Genesis which is still on show in the centre of Leeds. An agreement was also reached between The Crypt, a hostel for the homeless on one side of the viaduct, and the Crime Reducing Initiative, on the other side of the viaduct, to provide food and clothing for the shelter.

Although the members of Wochenklausur have now returned to Vienna to work on other projects, they will be back in Leeds in October for an event at the Henry Moore Institute, which will bring together all of those communities involved. The documentary made as part of this project will also be screened at this event. This film will also be available on-line with further comments from Wochenklausur after the October event.

The project was funded by Yorkshire Forward and as a part of their brief Wochenklausur worked with local arts and media students to document the residency with a video.

Neville Street: let there be light



Artist, Hans Peter Kuhn

Hans Peter Kuhn is an artist who works with light and sound. Born and raised in Berlin, he has worked on arts projects across the globe.

He draws visibly and audibly on his long experience in theatre. During the 1970s, he worked as a sound engineer in at the Schaubuhne am Halleschen Ufer in Berlin, which was acclaimed as one of the most innovative theatres in Germany at the time.

He has since created outdoor lighting and sound installations in Belfast, New York, Adelaide, Marseille and his native Germany. The installation

that is proposed for Neville Street involves metal sheets being placed along the walls with lights behind them that change daily in order to improve in the quality of the environment under the bridge (see artist's impression on front page).

Further proposals include sound proofing the existing area which would allow enough quiet for Hans Peter to create a sound recording to be played under the railway tunnel and into the Dark Arches. Again this will change on a regular basis.

A planning application has now been made and approval is awaited from Leeds City Council.

An enlightened approach



Artist's impression of St Matthew's Church

Exciting new proposals have been revealed to transform the face of Holbeck after hours. The proposals, centred around Tower Works and St Matthew's Church, are to light important features of Holbeck to highlight the focal points of the area.

The lights are expected to be in place by Christmas and will draw attention from vantage points across the city. Arup Lighting have been commissioned to work on both of these structures and have drawn up detailed design proposals.

Tower Works designs show each of the three towers being lit from the base

upwards with amber uplights. Additional amber lights will highlight unusual architectural details and white lights will highlight the windows and window reveals. Two sides of the third plain tower will be used as a base for projections.

St Matthews Church is already an imposing gothic structure and the lighting will accentuate key features of the church such as the ornate windows and the detailed church spire. Some of the lights used will be of a similar colour to the Tower Works scheme and the lights will be discretely mounted in order to protect the image of the church during daylight hours.

Cross Keys hosts contemporary arts club

A contemporary arts club was established at the Cross Keys during the residential visit of Wochenklausur.

This 'club' is a discussion forum that anyone interested in contemporary arts in Leeds is welcome to attend. The evening sessions centre around discussions exploring and debating themes of contemporary arts practice and projects with relevance to Leeds.

The first arts club was held in July and the next date is on 17th October from 6.30pm at the Cross Keys pub in the Round Foundry. A further schedule of events is due to be published in the near future.

Cross Keys, 107 Water Lane, The Round Foundry, Holbeck, Leeds LS11 5WD

Discussion forums awaiting your views

The new discussion forums for Holbeck Urban Village are now on-line and awaiting your views. The forums are an on-line chat room facility.

They are free to use and allow people from all walks of life to have their say on aspects of the urban village ranging from living, working, environment and history in the

area. There is also a section for businesses from the region to advertise their services and network with other companies on-line.

To access the forums log on to the website at www.holbeckurbanvillage.co.uk and click 'discussion forums' from the side menu.

Environmental enhancements

Areas of Holbeck have undergone a programme of environmental improvements in order to create safer communal areas.

Working with Groundwork Leeds and Holbeck in Bloom, the council has pinpointed areas that were used for fly tipping, anti-social behaviour and general wasteland. These areas have been cleared and new trees and flowers have been planted and they are now much more accessible to the community.

The areas included are Holbeck Moor subway, Meynell Heights, Pleasant Mount, Czar Street, Balm Place, Creskell Road and Nineveh Road. These areas have received a range of improvements from new lighting to tree planting and landscaping. Some of the improvements, tree planting in particular, were requested by the local community and St Matthew's Church now has cherry trees planted at the front entrance.

Vanessa Allen, project manager for Holbeck Urban Village, is very happy with the outcome: "We are pleased that we were able to obtain £70,000 to be able to carry out the improvements. The environmental enhancements and the PCSOs are all working towards recreating a sense of community."

Round Foundry goes green

Artist's impression of Round Foundry



The Round Foundry's second phase of development is underway with plans for a radical new environmentally friendly building.

This new building will be based on principles of sustainable design and is ear-marked to be another media centre providing office accommodation for further creative professionals. Further buildings that already exist on site will be renovated.

The proposals for this building, which will be located opposite the existing media centre, include provision for future energy schemes including space for a biomass generator, which will allow heat to be generated from natural sources such as corn rather than non-renewable sources such as gas.

Other design features of the building include locally sourced materials and two chimney stacks at either end of the building to help draw heat up through the different storeys and therefore allowing for less use of synthetic heat generated by gas. The building is expected to reach a BREEAM ecological standard of 'Excellent'.

Roland Stross, director of developer CTP St James, is looking forward to creating the urban village's first sustainable development. "We are delighted to be working on a project as forward thinking as this. In ten years time we are all going to have to consider changing the way we live to accommodate changes in the environment and the decline of other forms of energy. This building is a positive step towards the creation of a truly sustainable community in Holbeck."

Holbeck gala celebrates its 86th birthday

Glorious weather greeted the street parade which marks the beginning of the annual Holbeck gala in it's 86th year. The gala is organised on an annual basis by local people who work throughout the year to plan the event.

There was a variety of stalls including arts and crafts, Asian food, a BBQ organised by Holbeck Urban Village and David Street Café, the traditional gala cake stall and community cafe in St Matthew's Community Centre, a bookstall and a huge children's

tent with bucking bronco. Special guests this year were artist's group Wockenklatur who brought a European vibe to the event with their stall selling apple strudel from their homeland in Austria to local residents.

Special thanks for this year's event go to the main sponsors, Leeds Co-operative Society, with thanks to all those who donated time and money including local residents, SJS Property Management, re'new Leeds, and many others.

David Street Café gets a new lease of life

David Street Café is a long-standing feature of the community, but many people feared it may face closure as a result of the development taking place in Holbeck.

We can now lay those fears to rest as David Street Café's owners have worked with developers to secure new premises further into the Round Foundry and are due to move at the end of September.

The new premises will be on Water Lane, next door to the newsagents but still part of the Round Foundry development. The existing building will be demolished and a new building will be put up as part of the second phase of work at the Round Foundry site.

Martin Dunderdale, owner of the much loved cafe is delighted with the agreement: "We are set to move and are glad that we can still be a part of the community that we have known for over 20 years now. The new premises will be a little different but our products and service won't be altering."



David Street Café

Revised Planning Framework

The Revised Planning Framework, which was officially launched in February of this year, is the design guide to development in the urban village. To request your copy please send an e-mail to huv@leeds.gov.uk

KEY PARTNERS



Supported by



PROJECT PART-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION