

Weston Civic Pride Initiative

Update 1: Autumn 2005

Weston Civic Pride initiative has been developed in partnership by North Somerset Council and South West Regional Development Agency. The programme is well underway with 2 projects completed and 3 up for implementation within the next 12 months. Residents, businesses and visitors to Weston will soon benefit from a well designed and quality town centre and seafront.

PROJECT 01 completed Big Lamp Corner Phase I

The work at Big Lamp Corner, costing in the region of £750,000, is the first of 11 projects to improve the quality of open spaces in Weston.



Before the work at Big Lamp Corner, this area was a tight road junction which was dominated by through traffic

The work has incorporated natural stone paving, new benches, tree planting and upgrading of surrounding footpaths and street lighting. LED lights incorporated in the space are programmed to change colour and add interest at night time.



Big Lamp Corner is now a key pedestrian focus within the town

The improvements have successfully created a high quality public space that adds to the life and activity of the retail quarter of the town and provides a destination in itself.

PROJECT 02 completed Grove Village Phase I

The key aim of the works at Grove Village is to establish this area as a cultural destination within Weston. Phase I of the works, costing in the region of £300,000, managed to create a clear and safe pedestrian link from the main High Street shopping area through to Grove Park. Creation of a high quality street environment was possible with the use of natural stone paving and upgrading of existing footways.



Pedestrianising this part of High Street has improved pedestrian access to Grove Village

PROJECT 03 current Meadow Street Enhancement

The strategy identifies Orchard Meadows as a distinct town centre quarter and aims to do improvement work costing approximately £200,000. The works will enhance the setting of the local shops and provide an upgraded pedestrian environment. In order to maintain continuity with the rest of the town centre the palette of materials is the same as that used at Big Lamp Corner. Public Art is not within the direct remit of this project but the council will encourage a creative approach to building and shop front design to reinforce the attractiveness and distinctiveness of the area. Weston's signage strategy identifies the junction of Orchard Street and Meadow Street as a suitable location for a directional sign. The project is programmed to start in January 2006 and will be completed in autumn 2006.

PROJECT 01 current Big Lamp Corner Phase II - Silica

The second phase of works at Big Lamp Corner involves the installation of an iconic piece of public art that will draw people into the space from the seafront and High Street. 'Silica' is the creation of Nottingham-based artists Wolfgang & Heron leading a team consisting of Price & Myers (Structural Engineers) and Conran & Partners (Architects). It is a 26.0 metres tall, illuminated spire, made of reconstituted stone and stainless steel. The use of thousands of glass prisms means that the artwork will reflect skylight / sunlight during the day and be transformed with the use of coloured electric light by night. This part of the project will cost £280,000. The planning application was submitted at the beginning of September and the artwork will be installed on site in March 2006.

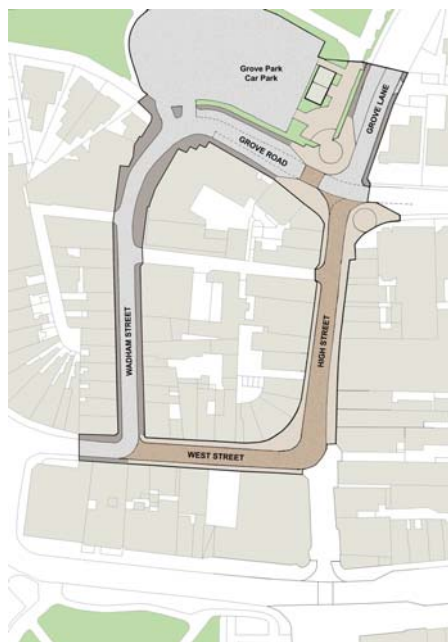


Computer generated image of 'Silica' at Big Lamp Corner

PROJECT 02 current Grove Village Phase II

Phase II works at Grove Village will help realise the full commercial potential of the area through the enhancement and creation of a locally distinctive and identifiable quarter. Improvements to the treatment of pavements and road surfaces on High Street, West Street, Wadham Street and Grove Road will upgrade the quality of pedestrian environment. Creative lighting associated with Grove Park and The Playhouse will provide focus and assist in boosting the

evening economy. A grander and more attractive entrance to Grove Park is part of the design brief and will provide an appropriate termination to the High Street. This part of the project has an allocated budget of £700,000 and the works will start on site early 2006.



Concept layout plan for the improvement work in Grove Village (Phase II)

PROJECT 04 Knightstone Island

current

The enhancement of the public areas and perimeter walk associated with Knightstone is a critical part of the regeneration of the Island that gets underway this winter. The wider project includes restoration and conversion of the three existing historic buildings and the construction of two new buildings to provide a mix of residential, retail and restaurant uses.

The public realm element of the project is being delivered through the WCPI at a cost of £1.25 million, and will provide an upgraded and accessible public walkway around the island as well as enhance the green and carriage drive areas. The design of the public areas is influenced by the natural coastal features, with formed rock outcrops providing new areas to sit and enjoy the views. A major part of these funds will be used to introduce an element of public art. The project aims to create a high quality environment that will help rejuvenate the seafront and continue to attract visitors. The project is due to be completed by Spring 2007.



Computer generated image showing the development proposal for Knightstone

FUTURE PROJECTS

Besides the above mentioned current projects two other projects are in design development stages:

Pedestrian Signage & Information

A Signage Strategy is being developed for Weston-super-Mare to address the growing concerns about the low level of public information available to pedestrians. It is essentially constituted of 2 components: (i) directional signs and (ii) town maps. 30 locations have been identified within the town centre and seafront area to install either one or both of these way finding tools. A graphic consultant will be commissioned to establish a simple and coordinated identity for the system. This project with an estimated budget of £250,000 is likely to be implemented in two phases, starting in March 2006.

Weston Seafront Enhancement

The programme includes resources to significantly improve the quality of seafront promenade between the Tropicana and Knightstone Island. The project is being looked at together with improvements to the sea defences that aim to protect the town whilst retaining and enhancing the attractive character of the existing sea walls. Work is beginning on the detailed design which will include upgrading the pedestrian surfacing and provide improved lighting, seating and signage.

The project will seek to integrate public art that will add to both the attractiveness and interest of the promenade as a place to relax and enjoy. Both projects will be developed in consultation with local interests up to an anticipated start on the works towards the end of 2006.

OTHER WCPI PROJECTS

Other projects programmed for implementation by 2009:

Weston Gateway – Part of the wider Weston Gateway Strategy this project will enhance the primary access into Weston town centre. With a budget of £575,000, this project is due for completion in 2007.

Pier Square – This project has a budget of £1.8 million and is currently in design stage. An enhanced public space in this location will play a pivotal role in linking the town centre and seafront.

Boulevard – With a budget of £1.2 million this will be a historic restoration project. Replacement of trees and reinstatement of individual forecourts will re-create the gateway into Weston.

Regent Street – Enhancement of the night time environment with creative use of lighting is the main aim of this project.

Tropicana – A healthy budget is available for the creation of a quality public space outside Tropicana on part of Beach Lawns.

For further information please contact, Stephen Makin at:

01275 888 757

or email

stephen.makin@n-somerset.gov.uk