



OXFORD WEST END RENAISSANCE NEWSLETTER

Who's Who in the West End Partnership?

The West End Partnership is responsible for over-seeing Oxford's West End Renaissance, and consists of Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

As the regeneration project is now fully underway, with the Oxford Castle development completed, Bonn Square on site and construction work on the Westgate due to start, a brand new West End Partnership coordination team has been appointed. Based in Oxford City Council's Blue Boar offices, this dedicated team includes:

Bill Fox

Programme Coordinator
bfox@oxford.gov.uk

Alison Wells

West End Administrator
awells@oxford.gov.uk

Sally Gough

Marketing & Communications Officer
sgough@oxford.gov.uk



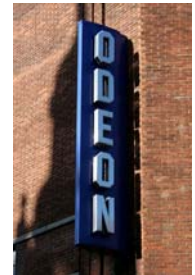
Strategy Updates

As those involved with Oxford West End will know, a whole series of strategies are currently at various stages of development that will guide and inform the whole programme as it unfolds.

Many elements of the **Transport** strategy are now developing into projects including Frideswide Square and the railway station (see over), bus routeing and the tourist coach park.

Colin Buchanan & Partners have been developing a strategy for **Improving the Street Environment**, and a second stakeholder workshop is planned for April 08. The overall **Sustainability** strategy is currently being scoped, a key part of which is the introduction of **District Heating**. A Memorandum of Understanding between key stakeholders is to be drafted and we hope shortly to be engaging a Procurement Consultancy to secure an Energy Supply Company (ESCO).

The **Community & Neighbourhood Cohesion, Skills and Tourism** strategies have all been scoped, and briefs have either gone, or will shortly be going out to consultants. Oxford Inspires has produced a **Culture** strategy that is virtually in final form.



And finally...progress continues to be made on the **Strategic Business Case** for the whole programme, identifying what needs to be provided outside the individual development sites and how these works will be financed. The top priority infrastructure projects have been identified and costed, and the funding requirement is now being assessed. A first cut of the Business Case will be presented to the West End Steering Group on 09 June 08.

Oxford West End Website

The Oxford West End website will soon be live at oxfordwestend.co.uk

The official marketing website for the Renaissance will be publicly available, will include more information about the future plans of the project, and will offer the opportunity to sign up to a quarterly e-newsletter. The website address will be displayed on all marketing and communications, including hoarding graphics, press releases and print publicity, and will be the call to action for anyone wishing to view further information.

If there is anything you would like to see included on the website, please contact Sally Gough (see above).

Westgate Pre-Commencement Work

Pre-commencement work is to start soon on Oxford's Westgate development. Later this year, hoardings will appear around part of the current Westgate car park (which is due to be demolished), and will feature information about how the project fits into the wider context of the Oxford West End Renaissance. The Westgate development will comprise new shopping streets, a full range John Lewis, a new entrance and refurbishment for the County library, a new car park and 127 city centre homes!





Oxford Railway Station

Oxford Station is a significant gateway into the West End and requires upgrading, both in terms of its operational performance and its passenger provision. Its improvement is a high priority for Network Rail and First Great Western, as well as being integral to the County Council's Access to Oxford project. The County Council is working closely with Network Rail on a proposal to construct a south-facing, bay platform on part of the Becket Street car park, expand and enhance the passenger facilities and improve the Station forecourt as a transport interchange. The role of the West End Partnership is to ensure a good fit with the wider aspirations for the West End Renaissance, in particular maximising the opportunity to create an enhanced gateway.

Bonn Square



Oxford City Council's £1.9m redevelopment of Bonn Square continues to make good progress, and completion remains on schedule for July 08.

The good news for Anglo-German relations is that the City of Bonn have been in touch and have expressed an interest in providing funding for some artwork on the new Square!

Area Action Plan Update

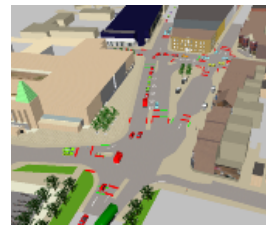
The West End Area Action Plan (AAP) is the document that will set the planning framework within which the development and renaissance of the West End area will take place. The production of this document started in 2005 with an ongoing series of workshops and public consultation exercises to ensure that we really knew what the public, and indeed other stakeholders, wished to happen in Oxford's West End.

In June 2007 the City Council published the final version of the AAP, which was subject to consultation. An independent Planning Inspector then held an examination of the Plan in January 2008, and the report, which is binding on the City Council, is due to be published in mid April. The AAP will then be formally adopted by the City Council in June 2008. All development in the West End will be expected to comply with the adopted AAP. This is a major step forward in ensuring that our vision for the new Oxford West End is delivered.

Frideswide Square

Frideswide Square, the Western gateway to Oxford, is a disappointing introduction to the city. The West End Partnership is working on an ambitious project to transform the square into a high quality urban space, whilst keeping the thousands of people who pass through it each day moving.

Work on this project is now entering an exciting phase.



An advanced simulation model has recently been created that allows the interactions between pedestrians, cyclists, buses and cars to be studied visually in real-time in Frideswide Square and on the roads leading into it.

Over the next few weeks this will be used to compare some initial options for improvements, but will continue to be used through the project. The results of this work will be reported to the West End Steering Group and other stakeholders later in 2008, after which an option will be chosen for further development. By spring 2009, we hope to have completed much of the design work for the new square; construction work is currently planned for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

ALBION PLACE

The Westgate development area includes Abbey Place, a 14 unit Oxford City Council owned flat development adjoining the Abbey Place car park. In order to re-house the displaced Council tenants and shared ownership residents when the scheme is constructed, equivalent accommodation will be built on a council owned site at Albion Place. Construction of these flats is underway and completion is anticipated at the end of August 2008.

The flats have been designed around the specific needs of the tenants and are being constructed to Eco Homes "Excellent" standards, thus minimising energy in use. Features include the lowest energy rated white goods, a biomass heating system, highly insulated infill between the timber frame and external cladding and double-glazed timber windows.

The next Oxford West End Renaissance Newsletter will be published in July 2008.

