

The importance of partnership Key feature of Stamford Vision is working in partnership

- § Town Centre Management Partnerships were set up within Central Government's Market Towns' Initiative. Local communities can have their say by working appropriately with partners and building a local case.
- § We are now a Community Interest Company with members on the board representing: Town, district and county councils as well as the voluntary, community and education sectors and local businesses and the Chamber of Trade. All members of the board have a 4 year term of office. See separate sheet for names. We do have elected representatives in fact 5 out of the 12 board members are elected representatives, more than in other similar organisations locally. Grantham Forward, for example has just set up a Board with one elected representative.

The board provides the strategic direction, bringing forward projects from Vision 2015 which was the agenda devised through talking to local people. This was done in 2000. As well as the board there are 3 working groups with 50 regular volunteers, who have done many projects which have not been publicised but which have contributed positively to the town-

- i. Urban group [eg benches, bins, painting lampposts]
- ii. Marketing group [eg Pride and Prejudice leaflet and post cards, 3-d map]
- iii. Business group [eg business surveys, business awards]

The Stamford Gateway project demonstrates partnership working in 2 distinct ways

- § Working together with locals –
 - i. The idea arose at the very first consultations and exhibition in 2000
 - ii. There have been 3 further exhibitions since then and numerous meetings with individual groups such as the Town Council, rotary, residents compacts, the Chamber of Trade and community groups, as well as one to one consultations with 30 local shops and 25 individual residents. (These individuals and groups were given a detailed consultation report which set out the feedback from everyone involved.)
- § Bringing together funding from different organisations - £1.3 m from; the Welland SP £278,000, Lincolnshire County Council £360,000, SKDC £350,000, the Arts Council £65,000, East Midlands Tourism £238,000, Castle Cement in kind stone donation. This money is only available for the scheme. This is an economic boost for the town and the scheme will significantly improve Red Lion Square and the Sheep Market.

What the scheme will mean and addressing specific concerns Think first about what there is in Red Lion Square and Sheep Market

- Ø Red Lion Square: This is the historic core of the town and is currently no more than a sea of tarmac, dominated by cars manoeuvring, where pedestrians feel pushed to the edges and have to cross in front of those cars entering and leaving the restricted car park. It really doesn't do justice to the many fine buildings round about it
- Ø Sheep Market: This is an unwelcoming arrival point for those from the train and bus stations and some of the larger car parks. There has been some improvement with the introduction of seats - these are really well used all year round and it is rare not to see someone using them on a dry day.

Think now what those key spaces will be like with the Gateway project:

- Ø Beautiful places, with quality materials, in keeping with the town's heritage, setting off the fine buildings and creating a real special sense of place, places which can be used for many types of event and activity.
- Ø Other towns have been very successful in this and we risk losing out if we do not move forward. What we have is the wish to see these improvements done in the best possible way. We don't want to look like 'Anytown' but rather celebrate Stamford as a unique place.
- Ø How did we manage this? By saying that we wanted to attract the best designers in the country today. We asked the experts from English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment for their help and with them we ran a national competition. There were 40 entries & it was a Nottingham based design team of architects and artists that won. The judging panel included the Mayor and representatives from Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Council.
- Ø Sheep Market will be unified by the use of the best quality York stone and there will be a sunning fan of gradually increasing York stone slabs running from Horseshoe Lane to the road. The ramp from the bus station will be improved and additional seating areas provided.
- Ø Red Lion Square will emerge as a square and the fine buildings all around will be set off by the pavements which will be up to 7 times wider than they are now. The whole square will be best quality York stone which is resistant to dirt, low slip and will last for hundreds of years. The pavements will be large slabs and the road and delivery areas will be smaller sets.
- Ø Both spaces will have central sculptures as a focus. In Sheep Market this is the Maypole with integral seating – rather like a traditional butter cross, and in Red Lion Square there will be modest pieces which hark back to the time when the square was on the Great North Road.
- Ø There will be additional accent lighting and in Horseshoe Lane there will be a handrail fitted.

What it wont mean:

These are some of the issues where there has been confusion:

- Ø Traffic will be stopped: No it will still move through both squares but the changes in surfaces will make drivers more aware of the pedestrians.
- Ø The Mid Lent fair won't be accommodated: No, this was always a priority – we want the spaces to be USED. We are in touch through SKDC with the operators who use these spaces. Some of the works will improve the site – electricity supply and removing some central poles and posts which are fixed at the moment.
- Ø The spaces will attract public disorder: No, this was an argument that was made when the seats were put into Sheep Market and the CCTV operators at SKDC have confirmed that there has been no increase in disorder. The lighting in the spaces will be better, the CCTV coverage will be better without the cars and better quality spaces are well known to be safer. Finally, we are actively in discussion with the Divisional Commander of police to see whether additional manpower can be used if it does appear to be a problem.

- Ø The sculptures will be eyesores: No, we are using local materials and want to work with local students giving them the chance to work with local stonemasons. We also want to incorporate local distinctiveness into all the additional art features and want local heritage groups to help us with that so it really reflects Stamford's past and character. They will provide focal points for the square drawing people through the spaces.
- Ø The proposals won't be safe: No, the works have been carefully developed so they will be better for the disabled. The materials used have a high adhesion inbuilt which makes them naturally slip resistant.
- Ø Car parking will be lost: No, on the busiest days in Stamford, Saturday and every other Friday when the markets are in the spaces there will actually be a net gain of 16 spaces with our proposals. The one way proposals were developed because the traders in the squares were so anxious to see car parking replaced nearby. However, the parking and one way system are peripheral to the main motivation for the scheme which is to create high quality public spaces where the pedestrian feels safer.