

## **Introduction**

Thank you for the opportunity to engage with the Town Trust on these proposals at such an early stage in the process. The Town Council often call for early engagement for significant proposals and we are pleased that the Town Trust are taking this approach. We are also pleased that the Town Trust has already outlined a wider engagement process and we look forward to contributing towards this.

At a high level, what is presented is what could be described as an explosion of ideas of varying merit, though we appreciate the effort made to present such a large number of potential aspects in a relatively coherent form and seeking to contextualise this with the wider town. Though we think that Stratford-upon-Avon is already a great place and what we have today is the envy of similar and much larger towns, making well thought out improvements to what the town offers is always welcome.

## **Prioritising the Key Aspects**

With such a high number of ideas presented, it is difficult to understand how this could be developed. The only real time related aspects presented are the inclusion of the parking and the eventual reduction of the existing parking provision included around the rec. We would like to see prioritisation of ideas along with a timeline vision as to how things can be delivered for the next engagement iteration.

From a Town Council perspective see the following as the key priorities for beginning to deliver this proposed initiative:

1. Lucy's Mill Crossing
2. Tramway Crossing
3. Integrating Parking Solution
4. [Other priorities]

Each of our proposed key priorities are set out in more detail below.

### **1. Lucy's Mill Crossing**

The Lucy's Mill crossing at the southern end of the scheme is a well used pedestrian access used as a key link between a circular walk along the River Avon, linking a number of Stratford's key tourist assets. Though well used, the crossing is often a bottleneck and this has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also lacks full accessibility to potential users. The proposal document talks about enhancing this crossing and also integrating this with cycle access. The Town Council are supportive of the proposal to address the Lucy's Mill Crossing and this should be one of the key priorities addressed first by the proposals. [add history and friends – Jenny Fradgely]. [explanation of NDP project to replace Lucy's Mill Crossing INF Project 7. The Town Council and local councillors from both the District and County authorities will be keen to work with the Town Trust in order to improve this crossing.

## 2. Tramway Crossing

Similar to Lucy's Mill, The Tramway Crossing is a key crossing point for the overall scheme to consider. Though it is much wider than the Lucy's Mill crossing and is accessible to all, it has a very volume of users and it is currently not permissible to use wheeled modes of transport over it (with the exception of buggies and wheel chairs). During the busy summer months, particularly during events such as the annual river festival, this crossing becomes a significant bottleneck. This issue is recognised in the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which was made in Stratford during 2018 following a 91% approval rate from a town wide referendum. Within the NDP, town centre project TC Project 8, sets out a project to alleviate congestion on the Tramway Bridge. [reference]

## 3. Integrated Parking Solution

[explanation]

### **Aspects The Town Council Does Not Agree With**

[explanation]

### **Reviewing Assumptions with Future Documentation**

The current document makes a number of assumptions that we do not recognise in the context of our town, typically failing to recognise facilities that are already in existence and contradictions in what is being proposed. We appreciate that these plans were drawn up quickly and knowledge will increase over time for those working on the proposed, but we would like to see less instances assumptions that we would challenge in future plan iterations.