

[date TBC]

free!

Accessing SOLIHULL



HELLO, this newspaper presents design development for Solihull Station- we are keen to hear your thoughts! Solihull Station links Solihull town centre to key destinations such as Birmingham and London. However, the current station, built-in 1938, is approaching the limit of its operating capacity. Network Rail has predicted significant future growth in passenger numbers and something needs to be done to accommodate this future demand and allow the station to continue with its role as a principal gateway into Solihull town centre.

The impact of COVID-19 has been extremely difficult for all of us and our town centres, we are aware of the impact it has had on passenger numbers and travel patterns. However, our proposals are being developed with long-term ambitions for improved accessibility in mind. Although there is a long way to go, with the roll-out of mass vaccinations already underway, we must look beyond this pandemic and start planting the seeds for the future prosperity of our town centre.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council with Mott MacDonald and Hawkins Brown, have been working closely with Network Rail, Transport for West Midlands, Chiltern Railways and other partners to develop a proposal to increase the capacity and upgrade the facilities

at Solihull Station. In August 2019, the design team carried out a public engagement activity to learn about what you thought about the existing Solihull station and how we could look to improve your experience. This informed the basis of the project brief and objectives.

WHY ARE WE ASKING YOUR VIEWS? We would like to know what you think about the proposed improvements to the station, access to the town centre and if they suit your needs. Your feedback is highly valued and will be taken forward into consideration as we refine the proposals and continue to progress the project.

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH MY FEEDBACK? Following this consultation, we will analyse the responses and feedback will help inform the further development of the design proposals. A consultation report summarising the feedback will also be prepared and made accessible. To note all personal data will be removed from the consultation report.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SO FAR

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A SUMMARY OF THE PAST ENGAGEMENTS

Between Summer 2019 and 2020 two public engagement sessions were carried out. This page sets out a summary of the engagements to date and information about the current engagement being carried out for the design development of Solihull Station and its surroundings.

SURVEY ENGAGEMENT- SUMMER 2019

An engagement exercise was carried out over three weeks in the summer of 2019- where we asked station users to complete an online/paper questionnaire about the current station, facilities, and their experience.



We learnt that...

83%

Support investment into Solihull Station.

VIDEO UPDATE- AUTUMN 2020

The project team had hoped to hold a series of update sessions to feedback their findings from the survey and look at the next phase of this project. However, given the current situation, the project team filmed a video update which outlines some of the highlights from the survey and shows how they have been used to help shape several key project ambitions.

The video update can be seen on the UK Central website which has been linked below, or can easily be found on our website- follow the QR code link below:

<https://www.investinukcentral.com/ambitions-for-the-new-solihull-station-integrated-transport-hub-set-out/>



THE CURRENT ENGAGEMENT- have your say

The public engagement is open (dates are TBC). Once you have been through the proposals we encourage you to provide your feedback which will be used in the next stage. Please scan the QR code below to be directed to our interactive website. From here you will be able to engage and share your thoughts, find more information on our online webinars and find a link to an online survey to provide feedback on the presented proposal.

WEBINAR 1:
DATE TBC

WEBINAR 2:
DATE TBC

VIEW PROJECT
WEBSITE



You are also able to get in touch with us via email, phone and post- we look forward to hearing from you:

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PHONE NUMBER : 0121 704 8736

POSTAL ADDRESS: Solihull Station Engagement

Intervention Architecture

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80-82 Floodgate Street

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B5 5SR

SOLIHULL MASTERPLAN

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THE WIDER PICTURE FOR SOLIHULL TOWN CENTRE

The 2020 Masterplan sets out a 20-year vision for the development of Solihull town centre. Proposals are set out across areas of change, including development sites, public realm and infrastructure proposals. Twelve of the Masterplans key interventions are highlighted in the illustrative image below. Number 1 marks Solihull Station site is the key subject to this engagement. An important redevelopment site sitting within the area of the town centre. The vision of masterplan to create a new landmark station building, creating a new sense of place and the design reflecting the quality of the town centre and complementing its surrounding buildings. For more information on the masterplan follow:

www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/SolihullTownCentreMasterplan

www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/SolihullTownCentreMasterplan

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THE KEY AIMS OF MASTERPLANS 'CONNECTIONS':

The Town Centre Masterplan has evolved around strengthening connectivity by providing high quality, legible and safe routes into

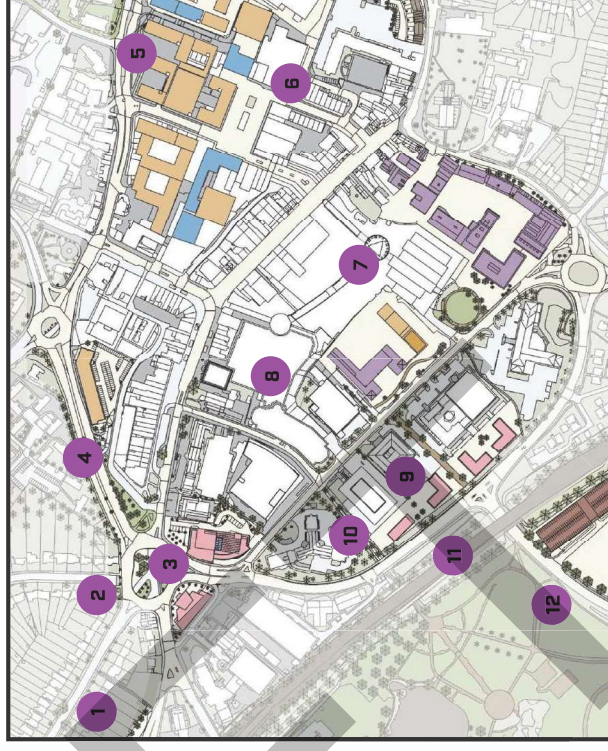
and around the town centre for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. To support the Masterplan, a Town Centre Access Strategy is currently being developed which seeks to improve accessibility to, from and within the Town Centre. The Access Strategy and Masterplan together identify the interventions needed to ease congestion and enhance connectivity for both residents and visitors, including:

- Encouraging short distance journeys to be undertaken by public transport, cycling and/or walking
- Ease congestion at known hotspots
- Make travelling by walking and cycling safe, attractive and convenient
- Consider the impact that new development will have upon existing parking provision
- Provide integrated public transport connections between the town centre and the boroughs other key commercial centres
- Provide charging infrastructure to support the step change in electric vehicle use, be that cars, bikes, or public transport

12 KEY INTERVENTIONS PROJECTS FROM SOLIHULL MASTERPLAN

The map to the right is taken from The Solihull Town Centre Masterplan, highlighting the twelve key interventions.

1. Redevelopment of Solihull Station
2. Improved Pedestrian Routes
3. Landmark Grade A Office Development
4. Quality Residential Development
5. Well Square Redevelopment
6. Quality Residential Development
7. New Civic Buildings
8. Mixed Used Development
9. Attractive new north-south pedestrian link
10. Office Development
11. Attractive New Pedestrian Link
12. Prime Development Site



THREE CORE PRINCIPLES

➤ EXPERIENCE

➤ LIVING AND WORKING

➤ CONNECTIONS

SOLIHULL STATION

EXISTING AND OBJECTIVES

LEARNING FROM PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In August 2019, we held a community engagement session along with distribution of a questionnaire to residents and station users which allowed contributors to have a say in what they believed the existing station needs and would benefit from to improve their experience. This then allowed us to understand how the existing station is currently being used and what the key areas requiring improvement are.

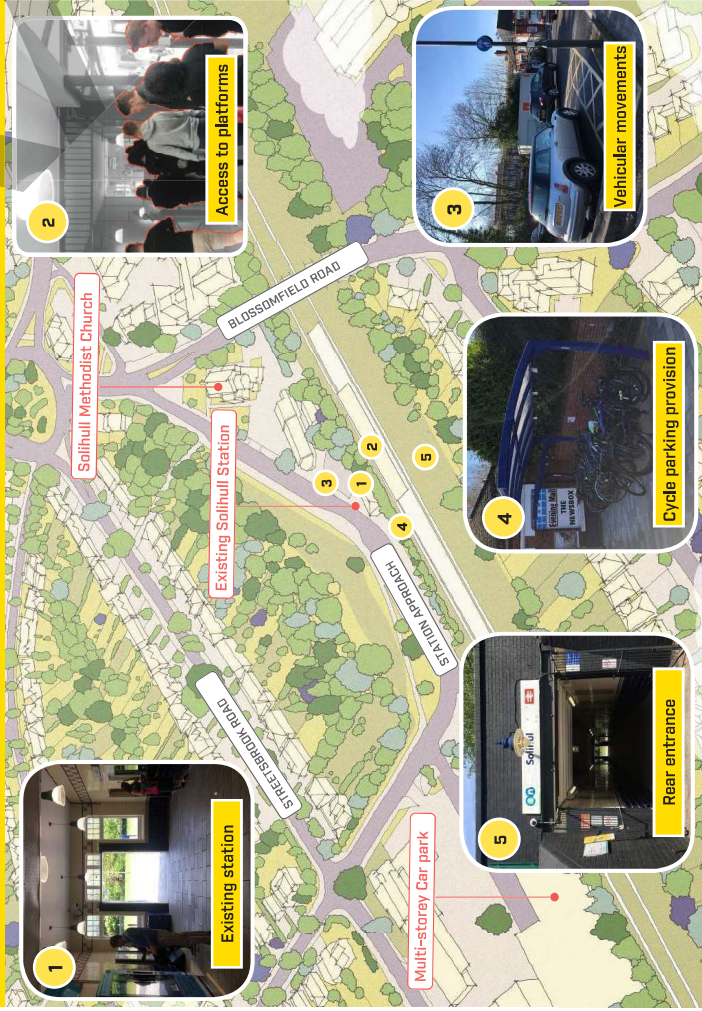
With this feedback the project team have been working closely with Network Rail, Transport for West Midlands, Chiltern Railways, West Midlands Trains, WMRE and other partners to develop a project brief to identify options for the development of an integrated transport hub. Refer to the drawing below which highlights what the team learned from the previous survey about Solihull Station and its immediate surroundings.

STATION EXISTING CONDITION-WHAT YOU TOLD US

- 1. Existing station building-** you told us:
"The existing station building needs modernising"
- 2. Access to platforms -** you told us:
"Not enough space for people to move through causing people to use the other side of the stair which obstructs people trying to access the platform."
- 3. Vehicular movements-** you told us:
"Disabled parking area within close proximity to the station is being frequently used by taxis."
- 4. Cycle parking provision-** you told us:
Insufficient parking provision means that cyclists are forced to park their bikes to the signage around the station.
- 5. Rear entrance -** you told us:
"The narrow pathways create unwelcoming routes around the back of resident's houses."
- 6. Rear entrance -** you told us:
"Insufficient lighting at the rear of the station which creates a dark / unsafe route at night."

- 7. Main entrance -** you told us:
"The main entrance gets very crowded especially at peak times."
- 8. Waiting areas -** you told us:
"The waiting areas are far from attractive."
- 9. Access to platforms -** you told us:
"Not enough space for people to move through causing people to use the other side of the stair which obstructs people trying to access the platform."
- 10. Stair congestion -** you told us:
"Stair congestion caused when train pulls in at the station."
- 11. Vehicular movements-** you told us:
"Disabled parking area within close proximity to the station is being frequently used by taxis."
- 12. Too much focus on cars, Cars and taxis make it difficult as a pedestrian."**
- 13. Cycle parking provision-** you told us:
Insufficient parking provision means that cyclists are forced to park their bikes to the signage around the station.
- 14. Rear entrance -** you told us:
"The narrow pathways create unwelcoming routes around the back of resident's houses."
- 15. Rear entrance -** you told us:
"Insufficient lighting at the rear of the station which creates a dark / unsafe route at night."

SOLIHULL STATION- EXISTING CONDITION



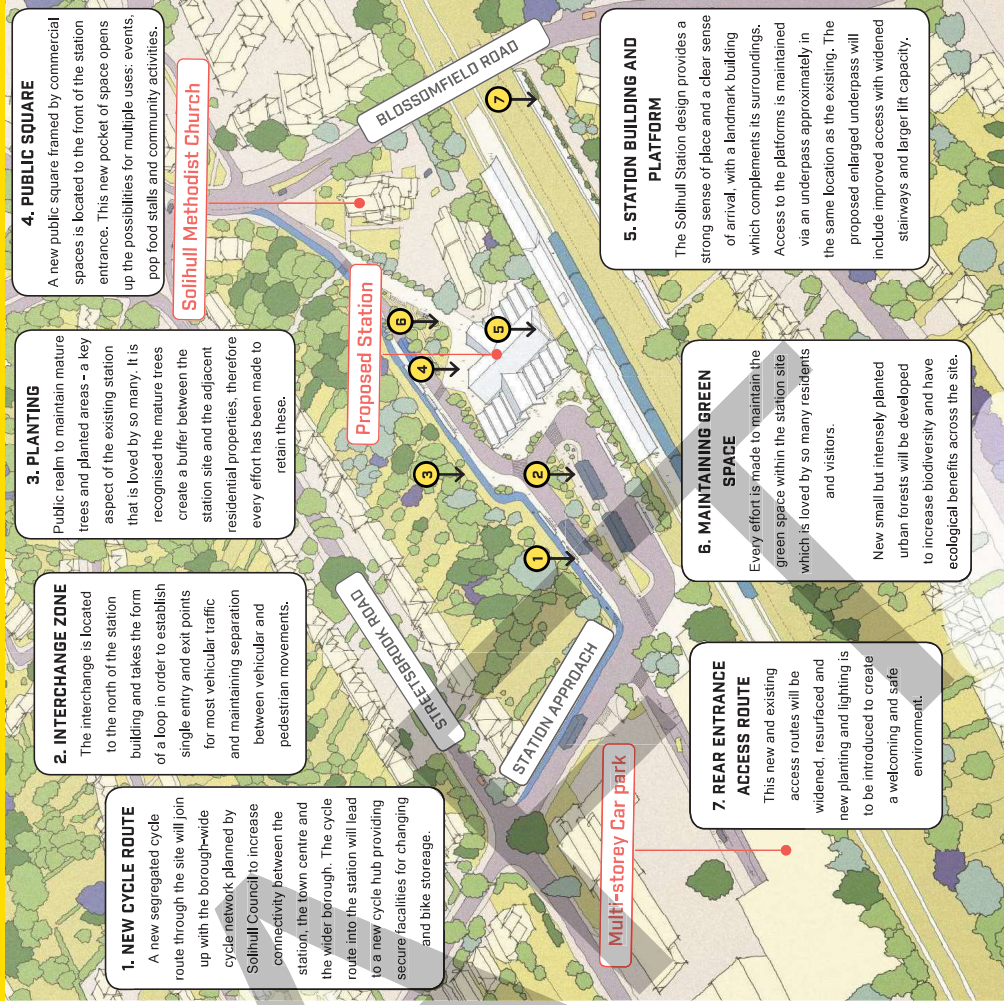
PROPOSED PUBLIC REALM

PROPOSED PUBLIC REALM

The principal strategy behind the proposal is to create three distinct zones within the site. By positioning the station at the centre, in approximately the same location as the existing station, this allows the site to be split into two halves; one side is dedicated to the transport interchange and the other for a new public realm with surplus amounts of green space to be enjoyed

by station users and locals. The surrounding public realm has been designed to allow intuitive access into and around the new station development. An generous amounts of green space and planting will be provided and pedestrian routes around the site are designed for easy, safe navigation and passive surveillance, accommodating both pedestrians and cyclists.

SOLIHULL STATION- PROPOSED



STATION BUILDING DESIGN AND FACILITIES

NEW PROPOSED STATION BUILDING AND FACILITIES

The proposal aims to capture the excitement of large traditional railway sheds, but also be sensitive to a scale and aesthetic that is appropriate to Solihull. To prevent the need for passengers

to queue outside of the station building, we have provided a generous internal public concourse space which will shelter passengers from the cold whilst waiting for transport connections. Increasing and enhancing the passenger facilities, providing new public toilets, baby changing and

a changing places facility. Passengers can buy tickets either from the staffed ticket office window or from 1 of 4 automatic machines. Station building also providing an opportunity for food and beverage offerings with retail units that face into the ticket hall and out to public realm.



THE DESIGN EXPLAINED Refer to the numbers on image

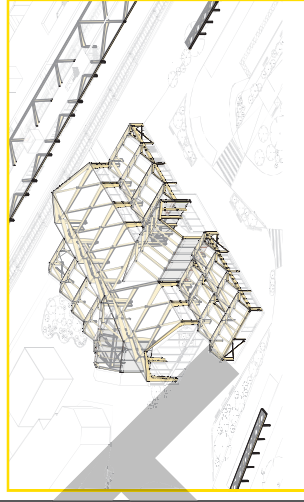
1. MATERIAL PALETTE: Consisting of warm brick, grey slate roof tiles, cream coloured stone and the use of wrought iron railings is reflective of the traditional quality of the existing Solihull Station building. The soft, light coloured timber structure which is expressed internally balances the traditional material palette in creating a building that is modern in it's representation.

2. TICKET OFFICE: The ticket office is located adjacent to the staff facilities with a ticket window facing into the station concourse. Provision for 4 ticket vending machines is provided within the main concourse and provision for 2 more at the rear entrance.

3. PASSENGER FACILITIES: New public WCs, disabled WC, baby changing and a changing places facilities will be located within the station building.

4. ACCESS TO PLATFORMS: Passengers can access the platforms via a newly widened underpass with enlarged access stairways and increased lift capacity to relieve crowding. Ticket gates have introduced either side of the underpass and a new and improved entrance is provided at the rear of the station.

5. TIMBER PORTAL FRAME STRUCTURE: An exposed timber frame structure is expressed within the station concourse. Timber was a natural choice of material over others: as it provides less industrial aesthetic and brings warmth. Timber represents a close link to trees and nature. Many research studies promote the well-being benefits of the use of timber in our living and working environments. Lastly, the choice of timber supports the project's sustainability aspirations using less carbon to manufacture, transport and erect.



6. INTERNAL PLANTING: Planting within the station concourse creates a calming internal garden amongst the hustle and bustle of the passengers passing to their next destinations. Planters also create and pockets for seating as passengers wait for their trains.