

**York Access Forum**  
**19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 10:30–13:00**  
**Hybrid**  
**Notes v2.1**

**Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation (if applicable)</b>
<b>Dave Smith (DS) Chair</b>	Access Officer, City of York Council (CYC)
<b>Srish Arjen (SA)</b>	Independent
<b>Anna Baldwin (AB)</b>	York Macular Society
<b>Dan Brittain (DB)</b>	Citizens Advice
<b>Dionne Grover-Jacques (DG)</b>	York ME Community
<b>Hannah Hardcastle (HH)</b>	Accessible Arts and Media
<b>Diane Roworth (DR)</b>	Independent
<b>Iain Mitchell (IM)</b>	Thomas Pocklington Trust/York Sight Loss Council
<b>Cath Loseby (CL)</b>	Executive Support Assistant (CYC) – note taker
<b>Danny Morris (DM)</b>	Sustrans
<b>Julie Stormont-Dauber (JSD)</b>	Regeneration Project Delivery Officer (CYC)
<b>Helene Vergereau (HV)</b>	Head of Highway Access and Development (CYC)
<b>David Warburton (DW)</b>	Head of Regeneration (CYC)

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>
	<b>DS</b> welcomed everyone and apologised for the change to an online meeting due to room availability. Introductions were made by the attendees.
<b>2</b>	<b>Presentation – Julie Stormont-Dauber – Front Street, Acomb</b>
	<b>JSD</b> gave a presentation to summarise updates re Front Street, Acomb as part of the phase 2 development.

**DW** Phase 1 scheme in Front Street: 2022 UK Shared Prosperity Funding used to repave the adopted highway. Also, bollards installed to protect the new paving and prevent illegal parking. This generated a lot of opposition, including a petition by 'Never Mind the Bollards' for their removal.

Phase 2 aims: create more family friendly space and reduce vehicle dominance, and involve community in future plans.

### **Four key elements**

#### **1 - Enhancing the high street**

Create a welcome gateway area with mature trees and sociable seating. Wider pedestrian crossing via 3 raised tables. Retain cycle and cargo parking. Remove some bollards and reduce clutter.

Raised tables which prioritise pedestrians during part of the day  
Market operator carrying out 3 month trial, (16<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> May).

Toilet block on Cross Street will be upgraded by June 2024. This will consist of two accessible unisex units; baby changing tables and proximity touch lock and unlock buttons.

**DS** explained there were left and right aligned toilets for accessibility .

#### **2 - Create more accessible destinations.**

Currently there are seven non-compliant blue badge parking spaces. The plans look to upgrade to six properly compliant accessible spaces.

#### **3 - Extending the benefits beyond the High Street**

**a)** Wayfinding signs:

**b)** New large signs to better connect local amenities.

Use public art to help create a local identity for Acomb.

**c)** New pedestrian crossing with tactile paving and dropped kerb near Morrisons.

**d)** Additional seating to provide rest points near Working Men's Club

#### **4 - Long term aspirations**

##### **Use of the road.**

- Feasibility study to investigate how travel impacts can be reduced.
- Current regulation orders are:
  - midnight to 8am road open to all traffic

- 8.00am – 10.30am restriction on general parking apart from blue badge and unloading and loading
- 10.30am – 4.00pm gate closed and no traffic
- 4.00pm – 6.00pm general but blue badge and unloading and loading
- 6.00pm - midnight free access and parking for all.
- Mon- Fri. Sat restriction starts from 9.30am and Sunday no restriction.

### **Public engagement Phase 2 ends 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Any work which is to take place must do so by funding deadline of March 2025

### **Comments/Questions:**

**IM** – raised impact of slant on crossing for visually impaired.

**JSD** will feedback to the highway engineers to check.

**DR** expressed concern in relation to lack of clear walkway.

from the crossing point to the shops. She also would like a well-defined walkway ensuring extra seating etc does not make it difficult for people with disabilities.

**JSD** stated they will work to make sure there is a clear uninterrupted passage through with an unrestricted walkway.

**IM** asked if seating was to MIMA recommendations.

**DW** advised that seating design is not a MIMA recommendation, but they have made additional changes e.g. warm to the touch and back support.

**IM** – queried rational for disbarring blue badge holders from having use of Front Street.

**DR** – asked whether Cross Street cycle lane will be a shared space with pedestrians.

**JSD** said there will be signage to show it is a shared space.

**DR** queried the word 'disabled' and should it be 'blue badge' parking.

**DG** asked if the bay used for pizza deliveries on York Road could be used for blue badge parking.

**JSD** said it is not a preferred option due to lack of safe zone when exiting a vehicle.

**DG** highlighted that not all blue badge holders have the same mobility needs and could be passengers rather than drivers thus not all require a 'hatched' area to exit the vehicle on the path side..

**JSD** acknowledged this and confirmed the area would be under consideration.

**JSD** has consulted with the parking team to deter unlawful parking in blue badge parking spaces.

There will be a report once everything is summarised and **JSD** will be invited back to the Forum.

### **Agreed Actions**

1. **JSD** to check regarding the left and right hand accessibility for the toilet
2. **JSD** will feed back to the highway engineers to check regarding straightening the pedestrian crossing by the roundabout.
3. **JSD** to work to make sure there is a clear uninterrupted passage through with an unrestricted walkway.
4. **JSD** to check whether the signage can be changed from 'disabled' to 'blue badge' parking.

## **3 Presentation - Danny Morris – Foss Islands Diversion**



YAF diversion  
presentation.pptx

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/70c30ed64f654deb8974bc38abf22e7f>

**DM** gave presentation on improving accessibility of the Foss Islands Diversion (attached).

**DS** has sent out a walkthrough of the different areas with photographs and talked through that.

### **Comments/Questions:**

**DR** asked if removing all the barriers will affect cycle speed.

**DM** advised there are already barriers there so it will be redesigned

### **Discussion around the most suitable signage for cycle paths followed.**

**DM** advised there is an online map on the cycle network. **DM** to send to DS to circulate.

**DM** outlined work that had already been done to involve the community. He asked for feedback on location of seating.

The path is not lit at night due to budget – Sustrans is a charity.

<b>4</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Ice Sculptures</b></p> <p>Flick Williams was unable to make the meeting and contacted <b>DS</b> prior to raise issue of a large plinth on Coppergate having been obstructive for wheelchair users.</p> <p><b>DS</b> has already approached Make It York who advised they would discuss this the Coppergate Management Team to identify why that happened and next time will assess each location for accessibility standards.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Christmas Market</b></p> <p>St Sampsons Centre may be an option as a safe space for people who feel overwhelmed etc. when city centre is very busy.</p> <p>They are looking into extending hours to do this and will update the YAF once plans have been finalised.</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b>CYC Chairs Accessibility awareness</b></p> <p>Awareness training for chairs of council meetings around accessibility needs.</p> <p><b>IM</b> suggested removing the word 'training' as it's about awareness not actual training.</p> <p><b>DR</b> Most important element is to make sure chairs are aware of specific requirements and adhere to it.</p> <p><b>DS</b> Advised he would raise the issue again with CYC democratic services.</p>
<b>4.4</b>	<p><b>Additional BB spaces near St Helens Sq.</b></p> <p><b>HV</b> attended around identifying areas for blue badge bays rather than parking in double yellow lines.</p> <p><b>HV</b> wanted feedback around the locations and length of time limit.</p> <p>Feedback received proposed to do an audit for 18 months. This will provide two blue badge bays with unlimited parking times.</p> <p>A discussion took place about this agreed the above in principle.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Dates of Future Meetings</b>
	<p>All meetings are hybrid over Teams and in the Hudson Room at West Offices. All meeting times are between 10:30 and 13:00</p> <p>07/05/24</p> <p>23/07/24</p> <p>04/09/24</p> <p>05/11/24</p>