

Background

TGP were commissioned by the Ullapool Harbour Trust to design the urban realm treatment for the proposed widened Shore Street road corridor and new promenade area south of the revised carriageway. The widened corridor will be achieved by the construction of a new sea wall south of the existing wall, a new promenade bounded to the west by the ferry terminal and to the east by the sailing club, with stepped and ramped accesses down to the beach.

Engagement

Prior to TGP being involved, the public had been engaged regarding the concept of the project and their aspirations sought for the treatment of the open spaces. This consultation and responses have informed the original design brief given to TGP. In consultation with the UHT and wider Design Team, TGP prepared 3 design options which were presented to the public at a virtual meeting, seeking their comments and views on how the design should develop.

The comments both during the virtual meeting and those submitted via a Survey Monkey online questionnaire, have in turn guided the further development of design options for submission to the UHT.

Engagement Comments from Public

Paving

1. Request for natural (Caithness) stone as pavement surface
2. Request for more public art and planting
3. Preference for a grid pattern design, rather than flowing designs
4. Will the surfaces be smooth and wheelchair friendly?
5. Simple but harmonious design & use of natural materials, not a sea of concrete
6. Local stone should be used wherever practicable
7. It is important that surfaces be matched on both sides of the street

Lighting

8. Lower lighting levels preferred
9. Minimise light pollution
10. Like the potential use of lighting on/inset into the sea wall face
11. Promenade lighting should be minimal as carriageway lighting will spill into the space

Street Furniture

12. Local stone and timber designs for street furniture preferred
13. Minimal street furniture to reduce clutter
14. Provide plenty of seating to aid partially ambulant or aged users
15. Include as much planting and seating as possible
16. Straight lines rather than curves to reflect the Ullapool vernacular
17. Traditional design to accord with the Conservation Area status of the area
18. Plenty of waste bins and designs should minimise wind-blow of litter (and seagulls scattering litter from bins)

Public Art

19. Create a 'Floor Story' of materials and inlays, to illustrate heritage, local geology etc
20. Include local Geopark stone in the Sea Wall face
21. No 'Public Art'
22. Include statues of herring workers to reflect the town's origin
23. Floor inserts (herring shoals) is nice, maybe include local artist installations as well

24. Inclusion of artwork is unnecessary and will appear kitsch
25. Public art should be the subject of a separate brief and appointment

Materials

26. Use Caithness
27. Materials should be local
28. High quality, local materials should be used
29. No concrete and plenty of planting
30. Support for colour and material changes in the road, such as brick areas included in the road (like Inverness) to reduce vehicle dominance and priority over pedestrians
31. Keep the layout design simple and use highest quality materials

General Comments

32. Materials should reflect the 'Working Harbour' nature of the Ullapool shore front
33. Like the approach to incorporate seating and lighting into the new sea wall, to reduce clutter within the promenade walking area
34. Include cycle parking
35. Avoid the new promenade being cluttered by street furniture and avoid bollards
36. Seating facing seaward, next to the sea wall, not roadside
37. Street furniture should be fully accessible to all users

Many of the issues were raised as responses to a number of sections, but the following design responses have been made to address the various issues raised.

Design Responses

- a. Through a number of iterations, the design proposals have been progressively simplified, both in layout and materials selection
- b. It has always been the intention to use as much local and natural material in the project wherever possible. concrete is not proposed as a material either in the paving or infrastructure palettes
- c. The issue of using Caithness stone was raised a number of times. Whilst too slippery for safe use as paving, it has been included in the sea wall design.
- d. All TGP urban realm designs comply to accessibility guidelines, best practice and British Standard BS8300:2018, in particular with respect to ensuring that all areas and facilities are accessible by all. The crossing points and build-outs have been designed and located to relate to facilitating free movement for all and also link up with the various alleys that lead from Shore Street through into the rest of the town.
- e. It is intended that public art is included in the project design, though no appointments for artists have yet been made and the exact nature of the artworks is therefore as yet undetermined.
- f. Planting is supported for the project. However, there is resistance to larger planting as this could compromise the seaward views. A number of planters have been shown on the layout, which will be planted with seasonal planting and may be moved within the promenade area. Therefore, the locations are purely illustrative at present.
- g. There was a preference for Stone and timber street furniture and a palette of suitable street furniture has been prepared, but may be amended should the design materials palette change.
- h. Any lighting will be located within the low vertical face of the sea wall to respond to concerns regarding light pollution and making the area appear too 'urban'