



Four Great Highways Initial Designs Feedback Summary Report

May 2023

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Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to summarise the feedback received regarding the initial designs for the Four Great Highways project in Llangollen. The report itself will not make any recommendations about the overall proposals but the views of stakeholders and the wider community of Llangollen will be considered as part of the final design for the scheme.

Analysis of initial designs feedback stage

The Council shared the initial designs online, presented them at a drop-in session in Llangollen Town Hall and at Llangollen Library from 13 March until 3 April 2023 to gather feedback from the public.

22 responses were made directly via Denbighshire's County Conversations Engagement Portal or via completed paper questionnaires, though it must be noted that not all respondents answered every question.

The designs were viewed 55 times online, 26 English questionnaires and 20 Welsh questionnaires were downloaded from the engagement portal.

We received two completed questionnaires after the consultation had closed so these could not be included in the data analysis, but any feedback provided has been shared with the project team.

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Which of the following best describes you?		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
I live and work in Llangollen	12	54.55
I live in Llangollen, but I work somewhere else	3	13.64
I work in Llangollen, but I live somewhere else	1	4.55
I am visiting Llangollen from elsewhere in Denbighshire	2	9.09
I am visiting Llangollen from somewhere else (not in Denbighshire)	4	18.18
I am a County Councillor / Town Council / member of nearby Community Council	0	0.00

Quantitative data

Data was collected to help us understand what percentage of all participants supported the initial designs in each of the project areas.

Do you support the initial designs at the Wharf?	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	17	94.44
No	1	5.56

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Do you currently use the identified space between the Wharf, Railway and Lower Dee Mill Park?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	11	73.33
No	4	26.60

Do you support the initial design in Lower Dee Mill Park - Option 1?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	15	93.75
No	1	6.25

Do you support the initial design in Lower Dee Mill Park - Option 2?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	10	62.50
No	6	37.50

Do you support the initial design in Lower Dee Mill Park adjacent to the car park, i.e. Nature Play, Outdoor Gym, enhanced Picnic Area?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	14	87.50
No	2	12.50

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Would you like to see enhancements and repair to various heritage features within Lower Dee Mill Park such as the timber bridge, former Mill and railway line?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	16	100.00
No	0	0.00

Do you support the initial signage and wayfinding designs?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	15	93.75
No	1	6.25

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Qualitative data

The following is a range of comments received from participants which help us to understand what they like and dislike about the designs as well as further suggestions about what they would like to see from the project.

The Wharf

Response
I loved the design and wildflowers. The grading of the steps near Wharf Hill will be an excellent improvement.
I support the new steps and refurb of the ramp, noting the requirement for railings at on side of the steps and ramp, but would suggest it is excessive to fit railings to both sides. The area of ground - current grass and weeds would look fantastic if it was to be wild meadow which would reduce maintenance. I am against the proposal of the seating wall as, elsewhere in town (Centenary Square) walls seem to attract climbing by children and skateboarding ramps by those a bit older.
It would be nice to use the opportunity to plant a couple more trees
Plans look excellent and will enhance the wharf
The existing steps up to the Wharf Cafe area are extremely steep and the brickwork has been defective for some time. I welcome the work proposed to make the steps more accessible and safer and the ramp on the other side will assist wheelchair and pushchair/pram users.
This looks like a huge improvement both in appearance and safety. I like the use of these materials and the addition of handrails.
This looks much more user friendly
Well needed improvements to accessibility

Lower Dee Mill Park – Option 1

Response
Either of the 2 options would be a great improvement. Both appear to be wheelchair/pram friendly. My only concern is the dropped curbs are also dropped flat or slightly ramped to allow access from the car park.
Fantastic investment in inclusive access
Further seating and possibly more picnic areas
I support both options as to have a ramp will make a huge difference as a wheelchair user. To choose one option I would go for option 1 as it seems the most user friendly. However, I love the enhanced heritage features of the round metal plaques in the pathways in option 2. Please make sure that any dropped curbs are dropped flat, or infill is used to make a mini ramp for ease of use.
I support Option 1 but would suggest that railing is not needed on the upward slope.
It looks like more paved area, which is not environmentally friendly, it also looks like a fenced off path which limits the feel of open space. No mention of tree planting, wildflower planting, restoring grassed area, nesting boxes, bat boxes. Lots of missed opportunities? Improved walkway I do agree with but please no more paving. Otherwise it ceases to be a park and becomes too urban.
Plan does not show proposed new steps from the bridge, but it would encourage easier access for visitors.
The ramp and steps by the bridge are good. I think the second access replacing the brick steps is unnecessary and should be scrapped and the area used for more biodiversity.

Lower Dee Mill Park – Option 2

Response
Both designs seem well thought out although option 1 seems more user friendly.
Love the provision of ramps instead to the steps. are the ramps wide enough for 2 large motorised buggies for disabled to pass. I read somewhere of the reuse of the block materials. In the wet the current ones became very slippery so would be best used to the more open areas not under trees.
Looks like more paving and an unnecessary fence - why? More paving reduces the greenness. No mention of wildflowers, nesting boxes, bat boxes, grass restoration, tree planting or biodiversity. Missed opportunities. Seating areas would be nice and natural (not brick/concrete) e.g. slate/wood
No - this ramp is excessive
I like the use of natural materials in both options.
Yes, this plan seems more detailed than option 1 however I think the fencing looks quite imposing, I appreciate it is to reduce desire lines across the wildlife areas between the sloped paths, however it could be less imposing. Perhaps just on the lower side of the path, then it will be a more natural feel and link people to the wild areas a bit more.

Lower Dee Mill Park – Play Area

Response
What you are proposing is far too close to the homes in the riverside building of Lower Dee Mill apartments.
About time some cosmetic work was completed to make Llangollen accessible and enhance its appeal
I like the look of the nature play area, but the BBQ area concerns me. Who would maintain it and has there been a fire risk assessment carried out during drought conditions?
I would support an enhanced Picnic Area along with the appropriate disposal if a BBQ area is constructed. I would not support an outdoor gym - I think this concept is outdated and rarely used. Consideration should be made for a path/egress area for canoeists, so they do not damage the vegetation - they tend to take the most direct route to the carpark.
Remove BBQ area as stated in previous box. There are no toilets in the vicinity. The nearest public toilets are over the bridge in Market Street. There are no public toilets at the Wharf only for patrons.
Support mostly - I am concerned about the public BBQ attracting vermin and the smells and rubbish which may be left. Like the use of natural materials and the enhanced heritage features and improved signage as long as the signs are not garish but in keeping with the area/town.
The proposed improvements will encourage greater use of this area and links between the town centre and the car park area
Treetop walk would require supervision for the safety of younger users, who would provide and pay for it?
Yes, it looks fun and inviting.

Enhancement and repair to heritage features within Lower Dee Mill Park

Response
Designated river access points for canoeists.
I would support repair to the timber bridge. I believe the railway line is now the footpath so I do not think it could be repaired.
It's high time the timber bridge was repaired, and this may improve the way the boating fraternity treat the banking in the gardens. At present they don't keep to the paths to bring their craft up and down to the river but trample up and down the banking in certain areas, destroying the Spring flower display. There is no current signage asking anyone to keep to the paths.
The timber bridge had been left in a defective condition for far too long
This is a must and not a nice to have. Preservation of the heritage features should be prioritised over provision of play and other equipment - let's get right what we have first before adding in other things.

Further comments – Lower Dee Mill Park

Response
I know the canoeists use this area a lot to exit the water. They really need some permanent form of access point save eroding the bank. Unfortunately, it is going to be quite busy with parking and children further along. Needs looking at from both safety points of view.
Make sure there is room to carry a raft in the path width from the egress to the car park. WWA rafts are wider than BMA ones.

Signage and Wayfinding

Response
Colourful, informative and aesthetically pleasing.
Discrete signage is supported in both Welsh and English.
First preference metal circles inserted into paving slabs to show the way or information. Second preference signs added to seating to provide more information. Natural materials should be used, tastefully done.
I love the metal circles inserted into the paving slabs I like the signs added to seating. Prefer narrow totem signs. Like natural materials not too bright / modern colour palette.
Needs to be inclusive. Is there provision for partially sighted/blind/vision impaired in the signage?
Overkill and unnecessary expense. It's not hard in Llangollen to work out where things are you can literally see everything from the bridge. Possibly access to wharf could be clearer. Having lived in Llangollen for 30 years the ONLY place I've been asked for directions to in town (apart from specific shops like the chemist or a supermarket) is the start of the path to the castle.
Signs should be compatible with the World Heritage Sites and AONB of sympathetic Heritage materials avoiding the use of plastics.
Yes, they are clear and informative

Next steps

The Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for sharing their thoughts and opinions about the Four Great Highways project so far.

In terms of consultation and engagement, we will not be seeking any further feedback at this stage. The final designs will be shared with our stakeholders and the public once they are complete over the summer months before work commences in Llangollen in the autumn.