



Public Realm and Streetscene Review Proposal

Richard Smith – Consultancy Services Manager

Sunderland City Council Presentation
18 February 2008



Who are **Living Streets**?



**National campaigning charity established 1929,
supporter and branch network, north east office
includes consultancy service**



Why Living Streets?

National and local expertise, community and client focus

Sunderland City Council Presentation
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Why improve the public realm and streetscene?

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Benefits of **good quality streets**

- Improve quality of life
- Improve access for residents and visitors
- Support businesses: increase footfall, time and money spent
- Healthier population
- Reduce road accidents
- Reduce local air pollution



Proposal:

**A dual approach
Expert on-street review
and community walkabouts**

The walkabouts will add value to the expert review by evaluating the quality of streets and public spaces from the viewpoint of Councillors and local people



Local people and
their representatives
know their streets
better than anyone.

They know what the
problems are and
some solutions





Walkabouts in a **nutshell**

Small groups local residents, traders, councillors, officers, police take part accompanied by a facilitator

Each group assesses a route

The Living Streets facilitator takes notes





Walcot Street, Bath - Before

Audit Recommendations

- Traffic calming; crossing facilities
- Improved footway widths/surfaces
- Better pedestrian signage
- More litter bins; more/better sited benches
- Rationalisation of existing street furniture
- Removal of graffiti/fly posters
- Improved cleansing regime
- Reinstatement of public toilets
- Improved street lighting
- Use of public art



Walcot Street, Bath – After the audit

Tea and cakes for workmen

A BATH businesswoman has offered her support to the street improvements under way outside her shop by keeping workmen topped up with tea and cakes.

Every Friday for the past few weeks, Lillemor Jakobsson, owner of Swedish shop Pax Marice in Walcot Street, has been keeping workers happy as they widen the pavements and install new street furniture.

She said many traders in the street are impressed with the improvements being carried out by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

They decided to show their approval by rewarding the council's contractors, from the firm Alun Griffiths, with hot drinks and tasty nibbles.

"It is really beautiful work that they have done and you just have to come and see it to appreciate how much nicer it is and how well it has all been done," said Mrs Jakobsson.

"The council has also had some money for bicycle racks and they look brilliant as well.

"I was just one of the people down here who thought I would offer the workers a cup of coffee one afternoon.

"They had come here from Wales, which is quite a long distance, and I think they really appreciated it.

"They have been here for a few weeks, widening the pavement all the way from St Michael's Church, opposite Waitrose.

"I started offering coffee one horrible wintry day and I did it every Friday from then on."

The street improvements also include adding a new bus shelter opposite the YMCA and fixing a Georgian wall along the rear of The Paragon.

The new cycle racks funded by the Arts Council are outside John's Bikes, opposite new stone benches.



SWEET LADY:

front from left, Pompeo Casa, Lillemor Jakobsson from Pax Marice and Eric Deakin; back from left, engineer Shane Charles, Gilda Cooper and Bill Heaney

Thank You

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