

THORNBURY HIGH STREET



THORNBURY INVESTMENT PLAN

Across the UK, how people use high streets has changed. The rise of online and out of town shopping combined with rising overheads have presented a challenge for many high streets with footfall falling by 20.5% over the past decade, according to figures from retail analyst company Springboard. The Covid-19 pandemic amplified and accelerated these challenges. It also presented opportunities, as lockdown restrictions eased many people preferred to, and chose, to shop locally.

We are investing in Thornbury to respond to the changing use of our High Streets.” Our £4.6 million investment in Thornbury will support a sustainable High Street that recognises its heritage and is fit for the future by:

- boosting the local economy
- making it easier for people to choose to walk and cycle to and from the High Street
- improving air quality
- supporting local jobs
- improving parking for residents, businesses, and visitors
- investing in electric vehicle charging

People come to the High Street for a whole range of reasons for shopping, to eat and drink, for health and beauty, to visit the library, or for services such as estate agents and accountants. The High Street is also a place where people come together, socialise, and join in community activities. We are creating a High Street that prioritises people.

Beyond the High Street, we are investing in education and health facilities including a new Sixth Form, maths and science facilities at Castle School and, reviewing options for the former Thornbury Hospital site.

TIMELINE
SUMMER 2020
The High Street is closed to motorists with an Emergency Traffic Regulation Order to mitigate risks related to, the Coronavirus pandemic
Six-month consultation ran from 21 July 2020 - 7 February 2021.
SUMMER 2021
High Streets vision approved by Cabinet
One way access motor traffic for loading and access to off-street premises, pedestrian and cycle zone introduced through an Experimental Traffic Order (ETRO)
Thornbury High Street Equalities Group established
Council grants were awarded to Thornbury businesses
AUTUMN 2021
Consultation, and face to face engagement, on the proposed changes to the High Street, in the Traffic Regulation Order
WINTER 2021-22
Changes to the High Street, in the Traffic Regulation Order approved
£4.6 million bid submitted to the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) for consideration, the funding approved in principle
SPRING 2022
Full business case for Thornbury High Street sent to WECA
Series of public engagement sessions in Thornbury
SUMMER 2022
Funding for the High Street approved
Highway improvement scheme construction - Rock Street, Midland Way and Bristol Road
AUTUMN 2022
Construction work in St Mary Street car park
WINTER 2022
Construction starts in Rock Street car park
SPRING 2023
Final plans and vision for the High Street released
Construction work starts on Thornbury High Street
Complete construction in Rock Street car park
SPRING 2024
High Street work complete

SUPPORTING AND CREATING A SUSTAINABLE HIGH STREET

Through our investment we are creating a High Street that can respond to future change, helps tackle the climate and ecological emergencies and improves air quality.

The work we have already completed on Bristol Road, Midland Way and Rock Street, as part of our network improvements, has improved air quality on the High Street and traffic flow around the Thornbury.

Part of our Climate Emergency pledge, as a council, is to increase the number of publicly available electric vehicles (EV) charge points. As part of our car park upgrades, we are providing 10 EV charge bays across Rock Street and St Mary Street car park. This includes two new EV charge points, in Rock Street car park, in disabled parking and parent and child parking bays.

We have worked carefully on the design of the High Street and Rock Street car park, including trees, shrubs and flowering plants to improve air quality, provide shade, cool the air around them and help reduce the risk of surface water flooding during prolonged rainfall making the design more climate resilient.

By incorporating planting into the design we will support wildlife to thrive by providing new habitats and support people's positive mental health and wellbeing. We will continue to work with the community to further improve the green infrastructure and biodiversity.

We have increased the capacity of the bins on the High Street to reduce the frequency of emptying, giving our Street Care team more time to focus on other work on the High Street such as litter picking and cleaning.

We have made greener choices with the materials we use. As part of the car park resurfacing work, we used steel slag aggregate, a by-product from steel production in Port Talbot. It is a greener alternative to quarried stone aggregate. The new paving on the High Street is natural stone and UK sourced.

Throughout the design process, we have worked with individuals and groups to shape and develop the plans, to deliver a High Street that supports the local economy, can be successful into the future, and creates a sustainable, welcoming space for the whole community.



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The final design of the High Street has been shaped by the feedback gathered through consultation, engagement and direct communication with businesses, residents, organisations, and other stakeholders.

A flush surface, of high-quality natural stone and re-laid tarmac, creates more space for pedestrians, which reduces trips and hazards, provides flexible space for community events, a space for people to meet and spend time. The choice of materials also minimises maintenance costs in the future.

The design for the High Street includes limited waiting bays, loading and unloading bays, disabled parking bays. The road will be one way access only, with a 20 mile per hour speed limit. All limited waiting, loading and blue badge parking bays were introduced and adapted following feedback.

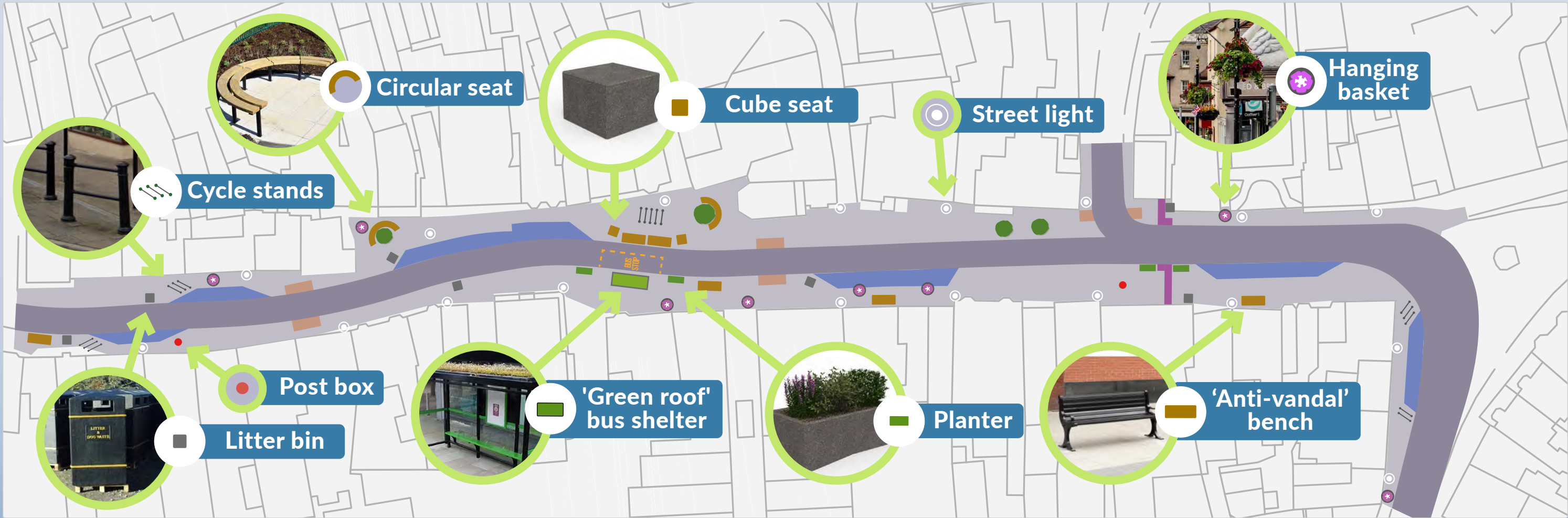
Our choice of street furniture, seating, lighting and planters, reflects the traditional market town and insights from our Accessibility and Equality group to ensure it fits the needs of the whole community. The use of planters instead of rain gardens and flush surface planting areas, allows the space to remain flexible and reduces trip hazards. The new bus stop, on the High Street, has a living, green sedum roof which as well as providing a little haven for wildlife will also absorb rainwater.



Hanging baskets have been retained because they are important to the people of Thornbury.

Plans to change the Plain and pump were removed from the scheme following public feedback as it was felt this would significantly impact the look and feel of the entrance to the traditional market town High Street.

The scheme will deliver an upgraded bus shelter with improved facilities such as a raised platform to help passengers getting on and off buses and a Real Time Information screen. This will maintain accessibility and enable buses to travel through the High Street.



WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

We have, and continue, to work with the local community to invest in a High Street that welcomes people to the town, a place for the whole community to come together and spend time.

Throughout design phase of the project, we worked with and listened to individuals, groups, businesses, through focus groups, meetings, online and in person, to understand what stakeholders wanted from the High Street.

We have made it easier for people to get to the High Street, moving the location of the disabled parking bays in St Mary Street car park, installing a crossing outside Grace Lodge on Rock Street. In Rock Street car park, we are increasing the size of the spaces, introducing more parent and child spaces and moving the disabled parking bays closer to the crossing to the St Mary Centre.

On the High Street itself we've created more space for events to bring the community together and people into the town. There's space for businesses to come out, beyond their shop window and use the space outside to display their goods and for seating and tables for outdoor hospitality.

We are adding more seating so that people can stop and spend time on the High Street as well as more planters and trees to bring colour and greenery to the High Street.

To improve the accessibility of the High Street, the design is level, making it more accessible for people with mobility issues and for families. To support people to make active travel choices, and cycle to the High Street there will be cycle stands.

Working with local businesses we have and will continue to deliver events to bring people to the High Street and its businesses, boosting the local economy, increasing footfall and supporting businesses to thrive and flourish.



A PLACE TO COME TOGETHER

Thornbury High Street is at the heart of the town, it offers opportunities for people to meet and build meaningful and lasting relationships with each other. As well as providing access to vital information and support, especially for vulnerable groups.

From events like the Queen's Platinum Jubilee street party, Thornbury Fun Palace, Summer Stories in the Square and the children's treasure hunt, Halloween family fun day, Christmas celebrations to regular monthly events like the artisan market, the High Street is a focus for people to come together.

“ We came into Thornbury for the Halloween family fun day. It was so nice to see Thornbury busy. Every shop we went in was busy. It is lovely having the High Street safe for families to enjoy the fair and market stalls. ”

“ We really enjoyed the Summer Stories and treasure hunt. We live in Thornbury, and completed the trail which took us into shops we had never been into before, and we discovered new things in shops we were already familiar with. ”

“ There is something for all ages on offer. We came out to the Fun Palace at 10am and are still here nearly four hours later! ”

By working together with groups, organisations and businesses such as Thornbury Chamber of Commerce, Love Thornbury, St Mary Centre, Thornbury in Bloom and Thornbury Christmas Lights Association we are committed to supporting the community to bring people from Thornbury and beyond, into the town.



FIND OUT MORE

To find out more information about the Thornbury investment plan, including detailed FAQs, visit the website.

You can also sign up for the Thornbury project team's regular email newsletter for the latest news and information about what's happening in Thornbury, as well events, community activities and ways you can get involved.

 www.southglos.gov.uk/thornbury

SCAN ME



Thank you to everyone who engaged with the process and helped to shape the design of the High Street.

