

Beckenham Town Centre Major Scheme Objectives

- (a) Removing/reducing the level of HGV usage in the High Street:** Although there was a desire to reduce through-traffic, it was accepted that retailers did need to receive deliveries. Any proposals would need extensive consultation with traders.
- (b) Improving the pedestrian experience with enhanced crossings and widened pavements:** This was supported. Although some felt that pedestrian crossings could be unsightly, or unnecessary if traffic speeds and volumes were reduced, Councillor Benington advised that TfL would expect to see pedestrian crossings in any scheme. It was felt that the focal points for pedestrian movements were clear already, so the challenge was mainly to enhance the existing locations. In discussion with TfL, it would be possible to move bus stops and parking bays as necessary.
- (c) Improving parking and loading provision:** Officers proposed a parking survey, improved signing and changes to pricing structures to increase usage. Councillor Wells stated that he thought at least 50% of vehicles using the St George's Car Park were from commuters - it was agreed that the objective should include achieving a better balance of parking. It was noted that the Odeon car park was badly maintained – the Council was about to issue an untidy site notice.
- (d) Improving traffic flow at major interchanges:** This was supported (see mentions of Beckenham Junction above).
- (e) Enhancing the public realm and pedestrian accessibility at the War Memorial:** Officers suggested joining the War Memorial to the pavement and creating a square. Councillor Sarah Phillips commented that a gateway feature was unnecessary and would contribute to the clutter.
- (f) Improving the quality of the public realm:** Marketing Beckenham as a village was discussed – comments were made that it was more like a market town, and that Beckenham village was seen by some residents as being just the area near to the Green. A straw poll resulted in 3 votes in support and 4 against. It was felt that despite the narrowness of the High Street and the restrictions of underground services there were opportunities for tree planting – trees did not necessarily obscure retailers' shopfronts. Other comments were that there was much attractive architecture above the shops which could be enhanced with attractive lighting, that solid shutters should be discouraged, Conservation areas could be joined up and a trail (as proposed for Bromley North Village) could be established. Amongst local residents were the designer of the Silver Jubilee Walk plaques and a specialist in outdoor clocks.
- (g) Increasing opportunities for regular street markets:** The Chairman commented that there might be more room for a street market in Kelsey Park Road near the toilets.