Bradford's heart can be transformed - but it needs your support

Gran Dame: The vision of how park space around City Hall could look once the area has been completely opened up in the planned £24 million scheme.

EXCLUSIVE by JO WINSLOW City Hall Reporter

The Telegraph & Argus today exclusively reveals stunning pictures showing how a new park at the heart of Bradford could transform the city centre.

Grand plans for the city park in the area surrounding City Hall

A Park At The Heart

Have YOUR say
Latest designs
£17m cash plea

See Pages 4 & 5

are designed to bring the people of the district together - and your support is needed.

Bradfordians are being asked to support the Park At The Heart campaign - which involves a £17m lottery bid to help it become a reality - and help shape how the park is used by giving their thoughts on what could be included in the scheme.

Initial designs include a flexible mirror pool reflecting the magnificent building of City Hall and an events area with quiet areas, play spaces, water fountains, shops, cafes and a restaurant.

Find out full details of the scheme and how to have your say inside.

NEW CITY PARK BID UNVEILED

ARE YOU INTERESTED OR KNOW SOMEBODY THAT IS?

WANT TO TOUR? NOW'S YOUR CHANCE
PUBLIC URGED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON AMBITIOUS PLAN

Have your say on £17m city park bid

PLANS: Councillor Andrew Mallinson in front of the area which could be transformed into a 'water' park, below

EXCLUSIVE
by JO WINROW
City Hall Reporter

Bradfordians are today being given a unique opportunity to shape the face of the park planned for the heart of the city.

Detailed design of the city park, with mirror pool and fountains plans, are unveiled for the first time today as part of a £17m lottery bid.

And the Telegraph & Argus is urging readers to get behind the bid and help make the first phase of the ambitions scheme a reality.

The inner pool will be able to change in size and shape and includes Bradford, Lisa, and Mount Pleasant Road.

The water will also be drained for easy maintenance and historic buildings will be relocated to other parts of the city.

Bradford will compete against 22 other towns across the country for the lottery cash and is the only West Yorkshire scheme in the running.

The final designs incorporating the ideas of Bradford's residents and demonstrating this support will form part of a £17m Lottery Fund Living Landscape bid to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The cash will cover the water features planned in phase one of the city park scheme - the mirror pool and reinstatement of a section of the River Aire in the centre of the City.

Lord Mayor, Councillor Andrew Mallinson, the council's executive member for regeneration, is backing the plan.

Councillor Mallinson said: "Bradford's city park will be a fantastic place which can be enjoyed by people of all ages and from all communities, it will bring people from across the district together and will revolutionise the city centre."
TO TRANSFORM CITY CENTRE WITH LOTTERY FUNDING

The new plans

Mirror Pool and Events Plaza (Phase 1)
The huge mirror pool is the focus for City Park. It is a water feature that also function as display and gathering places and acts as a pointer to reflect City Hall on its surface. The pool is designed to be a series of smaller pools, or even drain down completely to create a flexible events area catering for concerts, markets and theatre, with a capacity for holding 10,000 people.

It can also accommodate a temporary ice rink in winter.

Centenary Square (Phase 1)
Centenary Square will remain the main civic space for the city. Refurbishment of the planters and paving surface with bold swathes of planting, new lighting and art work will all give the space a new lease of life and reinforce the formality of the space in relation to the City Hall façade.

Norfolk Gardens (Phase 1)
A quiet, reflective space for praying, relaxing or reading. A fountain wall provides enclosure for the space and acts as a gallery wall for permanent, temporary and mobile artworks. The fountain will be set on a reflecting pool.

A cafe/restaurant also provides enclosure to the space and activity through an external terrace looking out to the gardens.

A babbling back masonry pool with a tree canopy with seating and planting around its length.

Business Forest (Phase 2)
Landmark office buildings frame the plaza and mirror pool, and will be the starting point for the new business community. Cafes, bars and shops on the ground floor spill out into the main space.

Central atriums provide covered winter gardens, and there is potential for the buildings to link with the Arts Centre over a bridge across Prince's Way.

A residential tower will provide city living and help to frame views of the Abraham Tower from the main plaza. Large swathes of green space provide shelter and enclosure from the busy road and a green way for the office buildings and main plaza.

The linear water feature will bring to the surface the old water courses of Bradford, and will meander round the edge of the plaza taking on different forms and eventually flowing into Norfolk Gardens.

The Business Forest will accommodate a range of city centre businesses, cafes, bars and shops, and the plant room for the water feature.

Can you meet the challenge of fostering a child aged 10+

WATER
Above, the raised pond area.
Left, the mirror pool when completely filled, and right when only quarter filled.

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