



PLANS TO RID HEREFORD OF A TRAFFIC BLACKSPOT UNVEILED ON FEBRUARY 8

Builders of Hereford Cathedral more than a thousand years ago were inspired by the great church already standing in the German town of Aachen and once again the team planning Hereford's new streetscape as part of the city's redevelopment also visited Aachen to seek inspiration for the redesign of part of the inner ring road, the city's notorious traffic hotspot.

The design options they have come up with for New Market Street/Blueschool Street to ensure good connectivity between the historic city centre and the ESG redevelopment will be on display for public consultation at Hereford Shire Hall on Monday, February 8th from 5pm to 9pm. There will be a short presentation of the plans followed by a question and answer session with members of the design team regularly throughout the evening. People will also be able to express their views on camera for a planned documentary of the city's regeneration project. For those unable to attend the open meeting, the plans will be on display in a caravan in High Town for a week from February 8, at the ESG Info Centre in the Butter Market, and in county libraries and info centres. The exhibition caravan will also visit the market towns.

Aachen solved its traffic problems by introducing a 'shared space' concept in which traffic and people exist in harmony. It worked, and the ESG plans to be unveiled on the 8th of February follow a similar philosophy. The cost will be met by Stanhope as part of their contract with Herefordshire Council to build retail and leisure facilities on the old livestock market site.

Jonathan Bretherton, chief executive of ESG said: "Ridding Hereford of the terrible traffic snarl-ups created by the inner ring road is the first step in the vision to create an extended and thriving city centre. I urge everyone with an interest in the city's future to attend the open meeting on the 8th of February and examine the proposed options for themselves."