

Article from Stirling Observer 10 May 2017

Plans have been unveiled for changes to be made in the area around Dunblane Cathedral.

However a feasibility study aimed at improving walking and cycling access has drawn some criticism - including from the Cathedral's minister. The study was commissioned by Stirling Council following last year's Dunblane Charrette, which aimed to develop a community plan for development of the town.

However some residents who expressed fears at the initial plans for the area at the Cathedral have been reassured that no decision has been made over any changes, and that no funding is currently in place for any works to be carried out. A consultation on the plans is open now, and can be accessed online until May 28 - a week longer than originally advertised.

Proposals that have been suggested include revamping the area around the Burgh Chambers and redesigning the Haining car park. And suggestions to change parking arrangements around the Cathedral, change the layout of the roundabout at the Cross and widen pavements by the Braeport Centre have drawn some criticism.

The Rev Colin Renwick said he feared that the proposals did not help those who are unable to travel to the town on foot or by bike. "These proposals, which appear to be driven by one particular lobby, look like being impractical, discriminatory and very much to the detriment of local shops and businesses," he said. "Cycling and walking are, of course, to be encouraged, but realism is needed here. We do have an ageing population, and people who come from far and wide for weddings and funerals in the Cathedral are hardly likely to come by bicycle." More than 200 people attended a recent presentation of the plans at the Cathedral Halls.

Fears about the plans were expressed by some residents at last week's Dunblane Community Council meeting- with concern about loss of parking, the protection of the memorial garden at the Cross and further disruption to the town following works at the station and the upcoming bridge project. Those present were assured that the plans are at an early stage, that no funding has been allocated at this point and that further consultation will be carried out.

A spokes woman for Amey said: "We're currently conducting a feasibility study on behalf of Stirling Council to improve the streetscape and enhance the historic character of the area around Dunblane Cathedral. As part of the study we have conducted consultation and established a steering group with local stakeholders including residents, businesses and motorists. We are keen to ensure their needs and concerns are addressed and form part of the recommendations that will be submitted back to the council."

A Stirling Council spokesperson said: "This is a community-led initiative, with a community steering group overseeing the project. It is currently at the feasibility stage. More information can be found on the council website along with details on how to have your say. We are keen for as many people as possible to give their views.

To view and take part in the online consultation on the plans, visit www.my.stirling.gov.uk/roadsconsultation