



# #OurFutureAshton

July 2024

## What's included in this edition?

- Welcome to our newsletter
- Consultation and next steps
- Workstream updates
- Perception survey



*Gerard Street now*

## Welcome to our Newsletter:

Welcome to the first edition of our #OurFutureAshton newsletter, which will provide regular updates for residents, businesses and visitors on this exciting project for our town centre.

It was announced last year that the Council had been successful in securing £6.6m of Capital Regeneration Project (CRP) funding from the government.

We know you are all keen to hear what's been happening so far and when you'll start to see things happening on site. We want to use these newsletters to help keep everyone informed and up-to-date with the progress of each project and share details of upcoming events and key dates.



*Old Gerard Street*

Find out more at: [www.wigan.gov.uk/OurFutureAshton](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/OurFutureAshton)

## Consultation and next steps:

In recent months, we've been working on design concepts for a new Ashton Square and enhancements to the public areas on Garswood Street and Gerard Street. We will reveal the plans to you in the next few months through online updates, and town centre drop-in sessions.



*Old Ashton*

Please also join our mailing list here: [www.wigan.gov.uk/OurFutureAshton](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/OurFutureAshton) to stay informed about the project's progress, including dates and locations for the drop-in sessions. The sessions will provide an opportunity for Ashton residents, businesses, and visitors to participate and provide feedback on the Ashton Square and public realm proposals.

Supported  
by



Wigan  
Council

# #OurFutureAshton

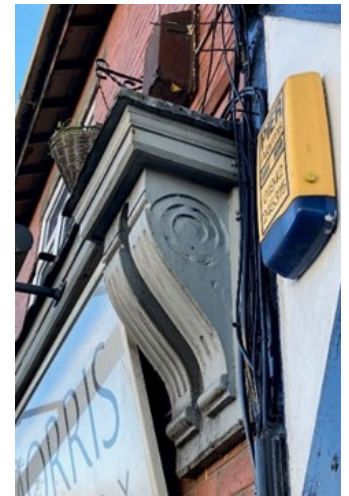
## Building Grant Scheme update:

In late 2023 the Council appointed Creative Heritage as lead consultants to deliver our building grant scheme. In January they attended the Ashton Innovation Board where they presented their initial proposals and led a workshop to understand the priorities for the Ashton community.

Using those insights along with other information gathered by the Project Manager who is 'on the ground' in Ashton every week, the details of the programme have been finalised and business owners and tenants have been invited to submit expressions of interest.

Premises on Gerard Street have been sent a letter about the scheme, and Creative Heritage hosted a drop-in event on April 24th, where business owners came along to learn about the scheme and how to get involved, and residents called in to hear more about the project and share their memories and knowledge about Ashton town centre.

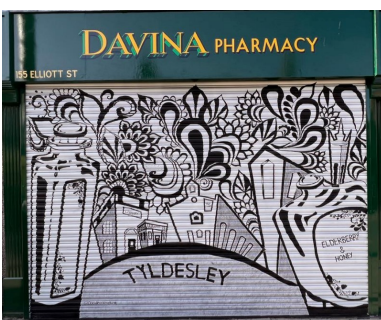
Find out more at: [www.wigan.gov.uk/OurFutureAshton](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/OurFutureAshton)



*Ashton shop front detail*

## Public Art Scheme update:

To complement the development of Ashton's historic market square, we are working with local stakeholders, to determine a range of options for public art. There is the potential for several commissions, with artworks taking various forms, to increase the attractiveness and vibrancy of the area.



*Shutter Art - Tyldesley*

Creative Heritage were appointed in late 2023 to deliver our building grant programme and support with the public art scheme. A drop-in event was held on 24th April, where business owners came along to learn about the schemes and how they could get involved. Large-scale murals are being considered, to create a positive impact on the high street, with artwork reflecting the unique character of Ashton. A number of locations have been identified, with the proposal that artists respond to a set brief that balances the sensitivities of the conservation area whilst representing the communities of Ashton.

So far, we have received 13 expressions of interest, including the creation of a shutter gallery along Garswood Street, providing a distinctive backdrop to the planned developments on the new Ashton square. Consultants, Minerva Heritage, have been commissioned for the next phase of activity – which will include consultation on the public art. This will run as part of the wider public consultation where residents, visitors and businesses in Ashton town centre can have their say on the programme.

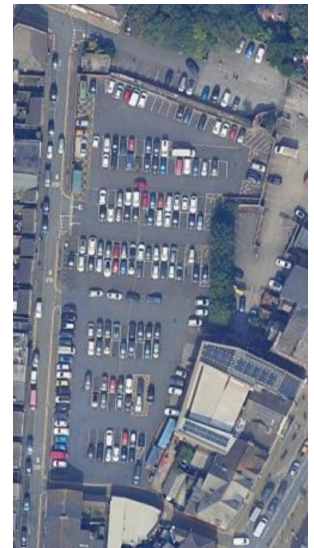
## Ashton Square and Public Realm update:

Gillespies has been appointed as the lead consultant to progress the project development and design of both the public realm project and the new Ashton Square:

A new destination is to be created on part of the existing car park on Garswood Street, on the site of Ashton's historic market. This new multifunctional square will provide an opportunity for social activity and regular events and will encourage entrepreneurship through provision of small units/pop up spaces, for use as food and drinks, local independent retail, and community spaces all located in attractive and inclusive public realm.

The public realm project aims to enhance Ashton's town centre with a welcoming, safer and adaptable environment that residents can feel proud of and enhance the experience for visitors. This includes streetscape improvements and greening of key routes through the town centre, including Gerard Street and Garswood Street. It will aim to make the streets safer and more accessible with new street furniture and lighting, along with potential opportunities to incorporate public art.

Gillespies has significant experience working on public realm and road infrastructure design, they are a leading international landscape architecture, urban design, and masterplanning practice, with offices across the UK. They will be working with Pell Frischmann engineers and Genecon placemaking consultants. We are excited to be working with Gillespies and look forward to sharing the plans with you over the summer.



**Garswood Street  
Car Park**

---

## CCTV update:

Safety and security in the centre of Ashton received a boost at the start of the year with the replacement of the legacy analogue CCTV infrastructure with 59 modern, digital IP (Internet Protocol) cameras. IP cameras are a type of digital video camera that receive control data and send image data via the internet/network.



The new cameras have been installed on Bolton Road and the junction of Bryn Road South, as well as Turnill Drive and York Road to providing extended coverage of the Gerard Shopping Centre. This project was funded using CRP Funding.

