

## **OLD ELDON SQUARE**

### **Brief**

The brief calls for the sensitive refurbishment of Old Eldon Square, as part of the overall redevelopment of Eldon Square Shopping Centre and Bus Station, to provide an improved public space which meets the following requirements;

- A respectful setting for the War Memorial and Remembrance Sunday Ceremony.
- An improved setting for the Georgian terrace on the east side.
- Improved pedestrian circulation through the square.
- A safe environment, particularly during the hours of darkness.
- To make the area accessible to all.
- An enhanced environment for pavement cafes and restaurants to overlook.

### **Concept**

The design concept is a simple one: -

The existing perimeter treatment on the east and south sides of the grass area (a low sandstone wall and pillars with a metal rail between the pillars) is extended around the north and west sides of the grass to form a consistent edge treatment on all four sides. The existing York stone path to the south of the War Memorial is narrowed and a new west/east York stone path is formed. All four paths intersect at an enlarged York stone square, centred on the War Memorial with a stone pillar at each of the four corners. The width of the cross paths is generous enough to accommodate bench seats and litter bins. The existing trees are retained with the exception of a few that need to be removed to make way for the new paths.

### **Circulation**

Within the wider context of the City Centre, the central north/south path through Old Eldon Square is an important link in the route that connects Haymarket and Eldon Square Bus Stations to the north with Blakett Street to the south and Grainger Market beyond.

### **Materials**

The proposed high quality materials continue the theme of the existing materials in Old Eldon Square. The new paths are buff York stone paving flags to match the existing York stone paving south of the War Memorial. The low buff sandstone wall and pillars with metal railing, around the perimeter of the grass, match the existing materials and detail on the south and east sides of the square.

### **Lighting**

The concept for the lighting design is to provide a high quality, safe environment during the hours of darkness against the backdrop of the surrounding buildings, with the War Memorial as a centrepiece. Contrasting light levels are used to define the different areas and their uses. The surrounding buildings on the four sides of the Old Square are relatively brightly lit. Within this setting the perimeter of the grassed area is defined by a ring of low level lanterns. Within this ring, the trees are highlighted with uplighters and decorated with pea fairy lights. The cruciform floorscape of the paths is marked out by blue LED runway lights in the paved surface. The central square is defined by a low level lantern at each of the four corners. At the heart of the Old Square, the plinth for the War Memorial is uplit from ground level and the statue itself is pinpointed by spotlights mounted on the surrounding buildings, providing a brightly lit centrepiece.

### **Street Furniture**

Bench seats are positioned on either side of the north, west and east cross paths and on the north and west perimeter of the grassed area, to provide a generous amount of public seating.

Litter bins are provided in conjunction with the bench seating and where the cross paths meet the perimeter path.