

Great Northern Square Follow Up Meeting: Thursday 30th March, Home Sweet Home, Great Northern Square – drop in anytime between 4-8pm

Dear Castlefield Forum member

I'm writing to invite you to a follow up meeting next Thursday, the 30th March to look at the emerging plans for the Square. It's a drop-in meeting – so come anytime between 4-8pm at Home Sweet Home, the Great Northern Square. Let me know if you can make it.

But first an update on what's been happening since you attended the Stakeholder Workshop in January. A new team of landscape architects has been appointed for the Square – they are Planit – you can learn more about them here: <http://www.planit-ie.com/the-practice/>. I have met with them and talked through the findings from the on-the-streets research we did and the outcomes of the workshop you attended. I've also passed on the comments that a couple of you made about the design brief for the Square.

The Planit team have been working up ideas and possible designs for the Square. They have focussed on it being an 'Oasis in the City' and looking at how it could meet the key aspirations for the Square that we devised together. Namely that the Square should be:

- A place of beauty, for calmness and reflection
- A place to that invites play and welcomes families
- A distinctive, unique place of which people can be proud
- A place that is flexible – that enables people to come together & use it in diverse ways

I think we did well at the workshop to share our ideas about the Square. Of course, in any group of people, there will always be different concerns and emphasis. But given that, I think we found many areas of agreement. The next stage is to move from vision to reality. And it's this stage where sometimes our differences and preferences become more apparent!

We'd like you to come to meet the landscape architects – see the process that they've been through and the design that they are now working up. I'm intending to facilitate this meeting much like a school parents evening! That means you'll get to sit round the table with a member of the architect's team, look at the plans and give your views.

Obviously we can't promise to do everything you ask – but I can commit to ensuring the design team take your views seriously. This is a key moment for you to influence the future design of the Square and I really look forward to seeing you there if you can make it. Come anytime that suits you, between 4 and 8pm – to the private dining room at Home Sweet Home. Teas coffees and cakes will be available. Robert from Trilogy will also be there, with some of his team.

If you can't attend, don't worry. I will email you the plans and give your views in one of the following ways: you can email comments to me; make a time to talk to me about the plans; or see if we can book a second chance for you to meet the landscape architect team.

Let me know if you can make the meeting – that's any time between 4 – 8pm on Thursday 30th March.

Best wishes

May

May Molteno

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We have recently been looking at what makes a fantastic breathing space in a city. Here are some of the favourite images people picked when asked what they thought was important in an urban public space.



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