

## Have your say!

Cheshire East's Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for Macclesfield is open for consultation, but not for much longer, with the online questionnaire **closing at 5pm on Wednesday 13th March**.

Here are some thoughts on how the plans could be strengthened to make Macclesfield a more sustainable and attractive place to visit and live.

## Create more choices for greener travel

**Improved pedestrian and cycle access:** Make walking and cycling the natural choice for short journeys by providing safer road crossings and 'filtered neighbourhoods', giving priority to the movement of people and creating more public spaces to sit, play and socialise.

Consider new or develop existing paths to become dual purpose foot / cycle paths.

**Invest in public and green transport:** Bus services have suffered chronic under investment within the town and between local communities (e.g. Bollington, Buxton/ the Peaks and Wilmslow). Investing in the bus network would make accessing the town by non-residents easier and support the 'Gateway to the Peaks' positioning.

Investing in evening services would be a green and safe way for those coming into town and contribute toward the evening economy.

**Provide Electric Vehicle Charging Points:** With the ban on petrol and diesel cars coming into force by 2040, public EV charging points will be required for visitors to the town, for those that live in flats or don't have off road parking and access to on-demand charging points.

## Provide more sustainable, energy efficient housing

**Sustainable housing:** While the SRF focusses on using existing buildings and brownfield sites, it is silent on the need to make sure these properties are fit for the current age. The focus must be on providing energy efficient dwellings with appropriate infrastructure in place to support sustainable living e.g. well thought out waste management for flats.

**Passive Homes:** The provision of Passive homes would set the bar higher still.

**Community Energy Schemes:** There is also an opportunity to include or promote community energy schemes as part of the redevelopment. As well as providing green energy this would provide a visual indicator of the town's commitment to sustainability.

## Greening Town Spaces

Increasing footfall is the clear intention of the redevelopment: a more sustainable approach can support that.

**More Trees please:** It would be wonderful to bring the draw of the town - the green spaces - into the town! More green spaces are required, incorporating planting schemes to encourage biodiversity and pollinating insects, and lots of trees to improve air condition, cooling, acting as wind breaks and improving the appearance of the town.

**Community Buildings:** Although the SRF talks of green spaces, it doesn't mention community buildings for amenity provision.

**Finally...** there is no mention of public water fountains or public toilets! Encourage the local business community to get involved with sustainability through schemes such as [Refill.org.uk](http://Refill.org.uk) or 'Free Toilets'.



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