

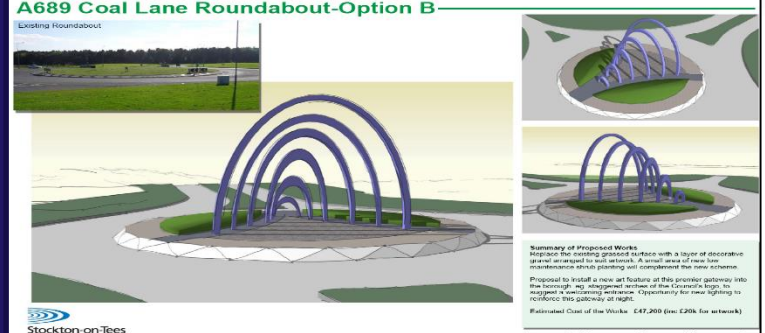
Craig Willows - Community Services Manager

Reducing maintenance costs whilst maintaining quality



A689 Coal Lane Roundabout-Option B

Existing Roundabout



Summary of Proposed Works
Replace the existing grassed surface with a layer of decorative gravel arranged to suit artwork. A small area of new low maintenance shrub planting and complement the new artwork.
Proposed to install a new art feature at this priority gateway into the borough, eg. integrated section of the Coventry logo. Its design a welcoming welcome. Opportunity for new lighting to enhance the gateway at night.
Estimated Cost of the Works: £47,200 (inc. £20k for artwork)

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Economic Regeneration and Transport

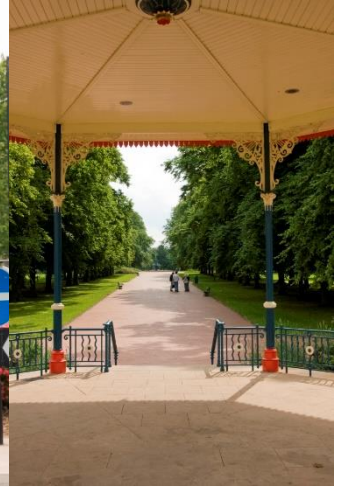


Environment and Housing

Big plans for our places and open spaces

Areas to cover:

- Where we were
- The challenges
- The impact
- Plan B
- Where we are now
- Plans for the future



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20 March 2009



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Where we were

- Northumbria in Bloom Winners 2004-2013
- Gold Award Winners x 4 in Britain in Bloom between 2006 and 2013
- Entente Florale Gold Winners in 2009
- Communities in Bloom Gold Winners in 2010
- 6 Green Flags
- Care for Your Area Awards every year celebrating the success of local communities (creation of 25 gardening in 10 years)

What we were supporting

- 199 Seasonal bedding areas
- 2 Million spring and summer bulbs had been planted since 2004
- Grass cutting programme ensured around 16 cuts per season with turnaround time of around 7-10 working days
- Around 1/3 of the borough edged every year
- 2 chemical spray treatments per year with spot spraying and digging out
- Comprehensive education programme across 3 Countryside Parks, 14 Local Nature Reserves, 1 Planetarium with approx. 300 School education visits per year

Challenges

- Significant budget pressures across the Council
- Reduction in revenue budget of approx. 40% since 2009 (Cumulative reductions of £3.1m within Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing)
- Reduction of staffing levels – 16 FTE gardeners lost (30 currently – not including cemeteries and Arboriculture), 14 of 16 Countryside Rangers, loss of education programmes and visitor experience with similar losses across other services e.g. Street Cleansing which impacts upon Grounds Maintenance
- Knowledge gap
- Managing expectations both internally and externally



Impact - 2014

- 89 of the 199 bedding areas were removed as part of latest round of £1m savings – associated, staffing, supplies and services and material savings
- Members briefing sessions to publicise changes
- Discussions with Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Groups and other key stakeholders to communicate impact and discuss potential for greater community involvement
- Reviewed key locations and main arterial routes with feature areas and strategic tree and bulb planting
- Concentrated on positives – we were still planting 146,000 spring and summer plants every year

Impact - 2016

- All but 25 bedding areas were removed from the borough (those remaining are limited to Ropner Park - our flagship urban park)
- Concentrated remaining resource on core functions i.e. summer grass cutting programme, vegetation control and chemical spraying.
- Greater emphasis on external sponsorship and income generation (business development officer linked to other commercial areas within the service)

Outcomes

- Expressions of Interest for 3 former visitors centres in main Countryside Parks – all now in use, reducing SBC revenue liabilities whilst increasing use in park
- Roundabout sponsorship of circa £40k pa
- External income generated through works with Schools and Academies as well as other commercial opportunities
- Reviewed options to bring some much needed colour back into the borough through wildflowers, more bulb planting, investment in key roundabouts (also reducing levels of soft landscaping)
- Increased emphasis on core services such as grass cutting



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Noticed Stockton's blooming lovely wildflower meadows? Here's where you can see them

The flowers have been planted to replace the traditional flower beds that adorn the town this time of year – Evening Gazette July 2017

<https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/noticed-stocktons-blooming-lovely-wildflower-13433895>

What our residents think:

	Compliments	Complaints (justified)
2013-2014	95	6
2014-2015	93	6
2015-2016	96	5
2016-2017	120	4
2017-2018	421	2


(neither of which related to grounds maintenance standards)

Social Media Comments

From: Ray Buxton [<mailto:raybuxton15@yahoo.co.uk>]
Sent: 29 July 2017 17:48
To: Care For Your Area
Subject: wild flowers

Dear all, Just to say the wild flowers growing in several parts of Stockton borough look brilliant. The ones on my patch the Glebe Estate and the roundabout at the top of Norton High Street are brilliant. Well done to all involved. Even better than Hartlepoons along the A689. Ray Buxton.

Virus-free. www.avg.com

 **Cherie @Brianthecat**
4 hours ago

@stocktoncouncil The wildflower display on the roundabout at Junction Road/Norton High Street look beautiful. Thought you should know. ☺




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Fiona Hair I'm loving that the council is planting wildflowers, seen as a lot of native species are endangered because of monocrop cultures, decimation of hedgerows and cultivated gardens. These wildflowers are much more beautiful than nearly mown grass. Well done!

Roundabout to Hardwick Park in Sedgfield was like this last year and again this year. Love it!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4 · 18 August at 11:11



Rachel Wilkinson These are fantastic - they look great and are providing much needed habitat and food for our birds and insects. I guess it also cuts council costs as they don't need to be constantly mowing grass? Please could we have some on the wide verges on Green Lane in Yarm, next to the Grammar School's rugby fields?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3 · 18 August at 11:41



Graham Scott I bought a couple of boxes from home bargains last year, they sprouted up nice, a very colourful display, the bees were very busy and so were the butterflies, I racked them out last winter and now they're shooting through again 🐝 🌻 🌼 🌸 🌹

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · 18 August at 19:12



Julie Breckon I love them. They are the nicest displays we have had. I really hope we can keep them. I'm not one for flowers, but I love them so much that they are making me want a wild flower display in my garden.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · 18 August at 17:52



Gem Medd Myself and 5 year old daughter were looking and talking about them yesterday, we saw the ones in Billingham and on the roundabout near Norton. She was saying how pretty they look and the butterflies will love them.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · Yesterday at 09:36



Elaine Jordan Goodison I saw them a few weeks ago in Billingham and was quite taken aback! So very pretty & bee friendly. Thank you SBC. . . Just wish MBC where I live would take note & do the same! Useless lot!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · 18 August at 15:17

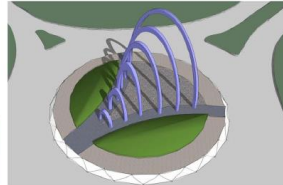
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What we're doing now and looking ahead

A689 Coal Lane Roundabout-Option B

Existing Roundabout



Summary of Proposed Works
 Replace the existing grassed surface with a layer of decorative gravel arranged to suit artwork. A small area of new low maintenance shrub planting will complement the new scheme.

Proposal to install a new art feature at this premier gateway into the borough, eg. staggered arches of the Council's logo, to suggest a welcoming entrance. Opportunity for new lighting to reinforce this gateway at night.

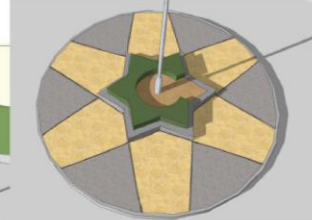
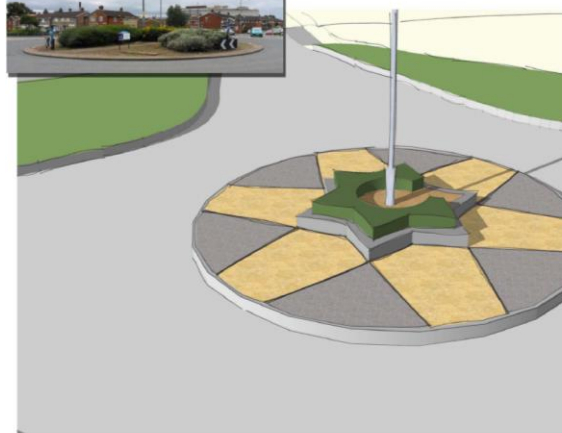
Estimated Cost of the Works £47,200 (inc £20k for artwork)



Economic Regeneration and Transport

Durham Road/Hardwick Road Roundabout

Existing Roundabout



Summary of Proposed Works
 All grass, shrubs and concrete block edging to be removed. Roundabout to be surfaced with decorative aggregates in contrasting colours and arranged in a star pattern. Central area to be raised with a new granite kerb and planted with low maintenance, low height shrubs.

Access to central lighting column to be maintained.

Estimated Cost of the Works £13,400



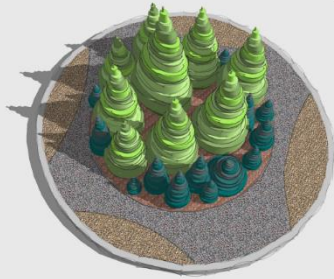
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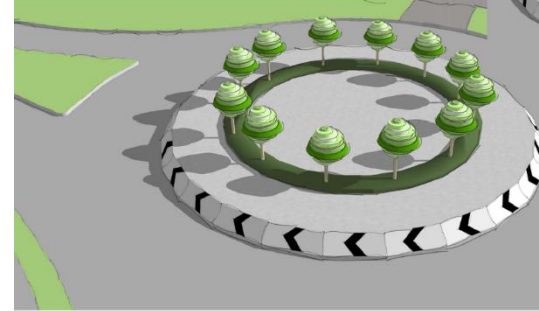
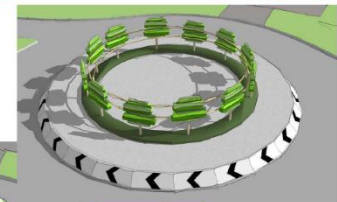


Summary of Proposed Works
 Planting of new ornamental, low height and low maintenance conifers and heathers to centre of the roundabout, to supplement the existing mature conifers. The central area of planting to be enhanced by a wide band of decorative coloured aggregate to the perimeter of the roundabout to replace the existing grassed surface.
 Estimated Cost of the Works £16,064

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A689 Wolviston Services Roundabout

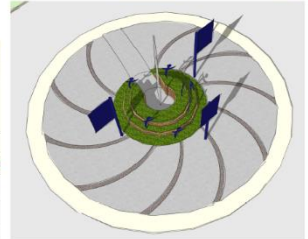
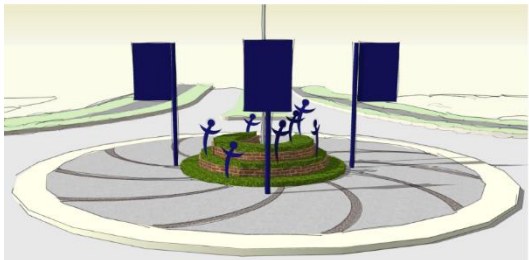


Summary of Proposed Works
 All grass and shade to be removed, and replaced with a ring of semi-mature silver birch trees, underplanted with ornamental grasses. Roundabout to be surfaced with decorative aggregates in rings.
 Alternative proposal using pleached trees trained to a simple frame to create a continuous ring shaped canopy.
 Estimated Cost of the Works £27,300



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Portrack Lane/Holme House Road Roundabout



Summary of Proposed Works
 Retain the existing cobbled bands and replace the intervening spaces with loose decorative gravel.
 Relocate the SIRF acrobatic signs from Durham Road to this roundabout and construct a raised planted stage area, with further acrobatic sculptures to complement the signs.
 Estimated Cost of the Works £35,420

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Thanks to eight high capacity batteries, the Gator TE can work hard for 7 – 8 hours between charges – all with zero emissions and practically no noise. Every unit comes with a built in, UL approved charger that automatically shuts off after reaching full charge.

Features

- + Heavy-duty frame
- + Features operating conveniences such as high-back cushioned seats, glove box, and automotive-style controls
- + Durable deluxe cargo box is spacious and allows for easy loading and unloading
- + Drive system provides plenty of power to accelerate faster and climb hills better
- + On-board battery charger

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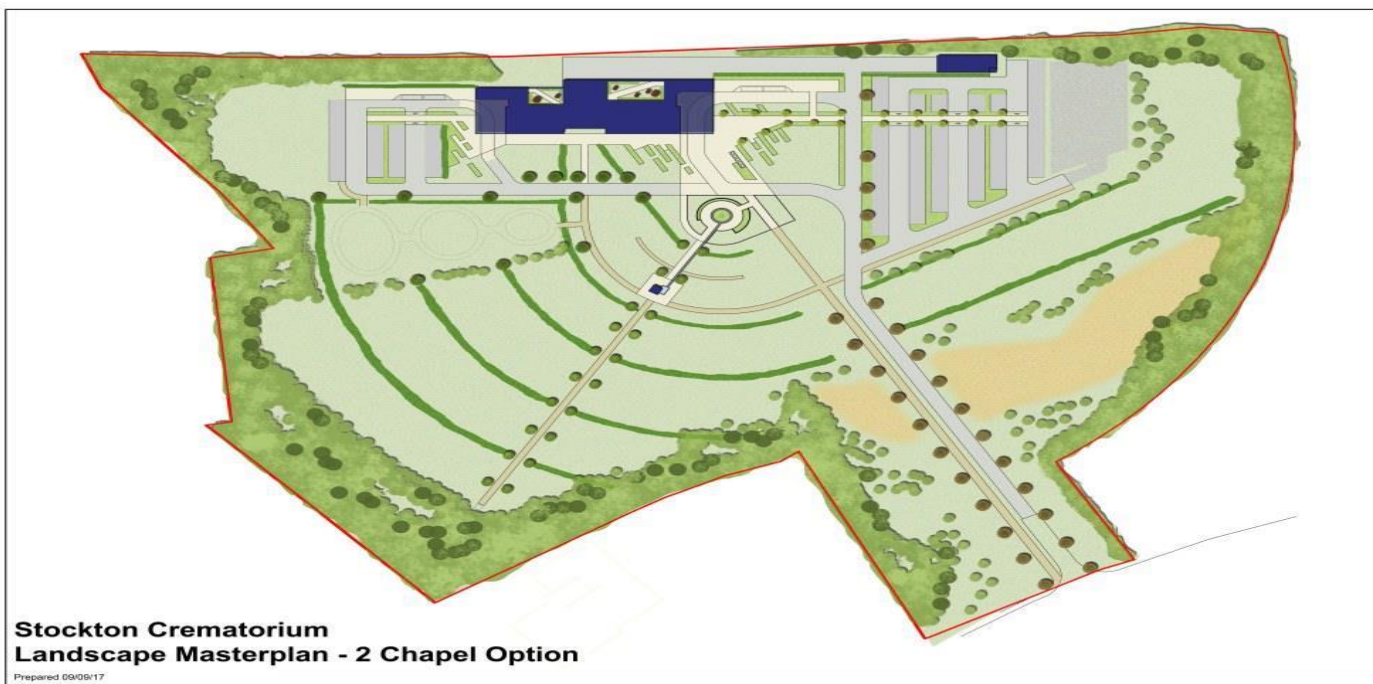


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Looking Ahead

- Continue to explore income opportunities
- Concentrate on core functions which are important to the public
- Adapt operating methods as required – extending wildflower areas where appropriate, alternative grass management where appropriate
- Continue to be positive and hope that the financial situation in the public sector improves!
- Working with Elected Members – CPB & communicating what is achievable



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Thank you for your time

Questions?



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