

PRESS RELEASE

21 June 2005

Your Say on Silver Hill Renaissance

An image documentary about ideas for the renaissance of Winchester's Silver Hill is in the process of being brought together by photographer Tom Wichelow, who has also spoken to over a hundred people and recorded their views.

Tom, who has a proven track record in town centre regeneration projects, started work on the project in May, has taken a mass of photographs and has been handing out a questionnaire to help determine some of the key issues for the Silver Hill renaissance.

From the completed questionnaires returned so far, there is an overwhelming view that this site is in need of cleaning up and injecting new life into the area. Comments received on the current state of the area include: "terrible, ugly and very dated"; "messy, needs redevelopment"; "very dated and unsightly buildings"; "it feels very 'run down', the 'back end' of the high street"; "not much here, not inviting to public"; "a bit scruffy"; and, "dull".

When asked about their aspirations for the area, there was a general consensus that it needed to be a lively area which would be attractive to all age groups: "more stylish buildings"; "clean, spaces"; "fresher, cleaner, brighter but not at the expense of its character"; "wider area for shopping"; with, "something for everybody".

There was a mixed reaction as to the style of architecture that should be incorporated in this scheme ranging from: "brick and flint"; to "stone as well as glass"; from "modern, stylish, 21st century"; to "traditional architecture". However, everyone felt it was important that this development fits in to the historic context of Winchester.

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The images he has taken and some of the key themes from his research will be on display at the public exhibitions on the proposals for the area.

Thursday, 23 June 2005	Winchester Guildhall	2pm – 8pm
Friday, 24 June 2005	Winchester Guildhall	10am – 5pm
Saturday, 25 June 2005	Middle Brook Street Car Park	10.30am – 4pm

They can also be viewed on the project website – www.silverhill-winchester.info - from 23 June.

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