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( EXCERPTS FROM PRELIMINARY REPORT OR HARPK.DEN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT dated 14.11.62 by STIRLING & MARGARET CRAIG, Architects & Planning Consultants, 30,London Road, Stevenage.

1. **Terms** of **.reference!** To prepare a- report on the possibilities offered

by a street improvement scheme in Harpenden for the consideration of the U DC. and any other local bodies they might consider should be approached. I^o special area designated for consideration, as this was lntexifed to form one of the recommendations of the report - likewise extent and scope of improvements.

**2 —n** **Area Examined**: Civic Trust recommends suoh an area should include ■

minimum of 30 properties - maximum of 150. Thus Harpenden area should extend from Station Rd-Amenbury Lane on South to Sun Lane-Kirkdale Road at North.

1. **Character of Central A**rea: High St (iscl.Church Green) remarkable as

e.g. of merit of topography of a street, rendering its architecture of secondary importance. No 'gems' in whole length\* several examples of their particular kind yet no sequence, and majority built in past 100 years (prsumably replacing older structures oh same sites).

"The overall impression however is extremely agreable, its only major weakness being the presence of the main road which cats the '! area in half"

Trees predominate and one can sc&recely see the buildings on East ? side for stretches during summer: "In our view these trees are a great natural asset."

1. **Princip**a**l Defects:** 1. Separation of shopping on east and west sides.

—- 2. Qongestion of car parking in High St.

3. Small areas of grass and trees defined by posts and chains which should be better integrated with High St.pedestrian system. 4. Bowers Parade and Hockadays block as examples

of "low visual content"

1. Random assortment of furniture and signs.
2. Bus stops obstruct through traffic and call

for lay-bys.

1. **general Proposals**: 1. Wide subway or footbridge to unify street for

pedestrians -either Church Gx’een. or at Woolworths.

1. Prohibit car-parking in High St. or re-allocate area of parking, and oall better attention to existing Car Parks (e.g. Amenbury Lane)
2. Detailed survey and re-plan, in conjunction with landscape architect, required on items 1 ® 2 (above) and 6 (below) to inlcude particularly such areas as sototh of Har.Motors-inoluding P-iblic Conveniences, bus sheltre, notice boards, etc.
3. Owners of sub-standard areas (e.g.Bowers Pamde)



to be encouraged to improve (a) appeal of building **itself (subject** of detailed proposals) and (b) Shop windows and **fronts, lettering,**

display, window dressing,**etc.**

1. Survey functions of notices ami **signs and** eliminate inessentials c >nsoliciate at c itical points by **liason with**

author it ies/ovmers involved.

1. Bus lay-bys

**Paintwork and Lettering;** Additional painting **of parts at present**

6.

unpainted not **warranted on score of** additional maintenance costs : concentrate **on already painted areas,**

e.g.Harpenden **Anas,**rendered buildings e,g£Kingston **HouseyJ3untys,** end wall of Hockadays,etc. Similaly fascia and **other lettering of** some shops to be inproved-to increase appeal to **customers as wel1** as contribute to street scene, e.g. Bowers Parade,**White Lion, w** Hilaries, Robertson Bros.,. The George Hotel is a **lost opportunity** being first Hotel on left entering Town from **London - forbidding\*** Brewers might cooperate.

Con**clusion,** Earpendan lends itself to a street **improvement**

**7,**

scheme of considerable flexibility **if it** concentrated on open spaces and key buildings - **but character should** be modest and unpretentious.

"We well understand, of course, **the subway may** be an economic impossibility, but there is $no doubt **that if a by-pass** io out of the question, a free **flow of** pedestrians **from one side of** the High Street to the other would very greatly **enhance the townh** amenities. ~ A

Ho comment on cost until U.D.C, **reactions are**

Pleased to meet Council or any committee **and** show slides to illustrate points made in report. Could **also** preoare drawings to indicate how report could be **implit&ented.**

**received.**

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