



March 2011

Since January's update we have had four meetings of the Gates sub-committee. One of these was to learn from the experience of a consultant who has worked on several government-funded heritage projects.

Applications for funding

This followed the disappointing news from the Heritage Lottery Fund's team (Heritage Grants over £50,000) that our pre-application could not be progressed (yet) to the next stage because we had very high capital costs relative to the educational and social benefits.

The Fund have not turned us away but have given useful feedback, and sent an example of a successful project with the following comment: 'As you can see, it involved conservation work to a building and a good level of 'learning' and 'participation' opportunities on offer to justify the level of funding requested. Whilst it is very different to the type of project that you are seeking funding for, it is worth referring to in terms of what we would expect to see in a project, the balance between meeting HLF priorities (i.e. 'Conservation' and 'Learning') and the level of detail required especially for projects seeking funding near the maximum available under the Your Heritage grant scheme.' (This is for grants from £3000-£50,000).

We need to decide whether to pursue this route of 'learning and participation'. It would require skills and time that the committee as it is now constituted does not have.

We were also unsuccessful with our stage 1 application to Community Spaces (managed by Groundwork on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund). Because this scheme is being wound up there was a huge remaining demand, and our project was simply not viewed as a funding priority or as having the level of impact of other applications. They were also concerned that we didn't have other funding in place which would enable us to complete the project.

Nonetheless, we are not deterred and are following up several other leads.

Public fund-raising

The launch of the public fund-raising effort is on 7 April at the Cheltenham Townhouse in Pittville Lawn. Martin Horwood, M.P. and Cheltenham Mayor, Councillor Anne Regan will be among the guests. A limited number of Friends will be able to attend, on a first-come first served basis.

We are also holding an event for members of Friends of Pittville on 27 April at the Royal Oak, 43 The Burgage, Prestbury <http://www.royal-oak-prestbury.co.uk/contact.html>

This will be a social event during which members will be able to view the initial plans and drawings and give further comment on the proposals. There will be a charge to cover a buffet meal, with the small profit going to the appeal funds.

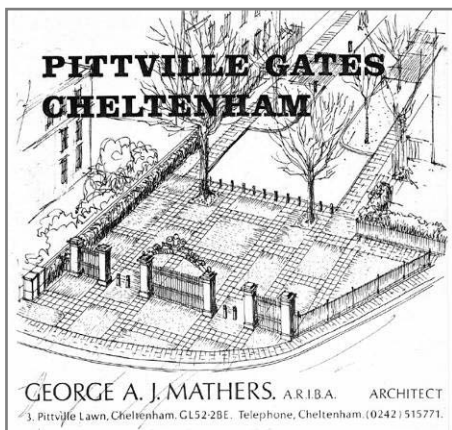
Another source of funds will be sales of the comprehensive booklet on the history of Pittville Gates that Friends of Pittville member, Dr James Hodsdon, has written with his wife Judie (Chairman of the Gates sub-committee). This will be launched at the 7 April event and will also be on sale on 27 April.

We are working on a publicity leaflet which will include a donation form. This will be available at both the above events.

Plans and drawings



We are still refining our ideas on the landscaping around the gates. Over the last two months we have continued to work with the Borough Council's landscape architect and have also taken advice and inspiration from some private architects and landscape designers.

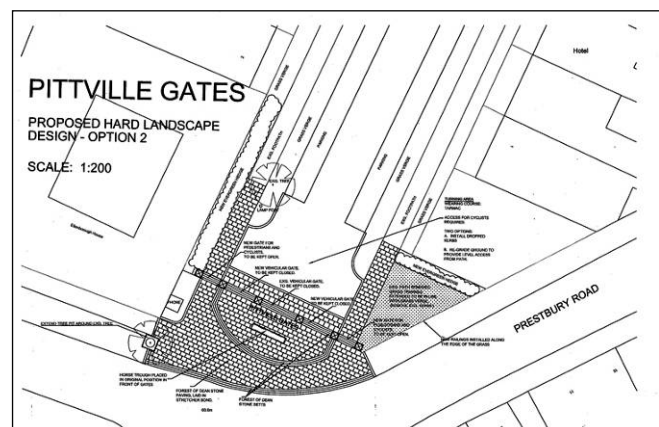
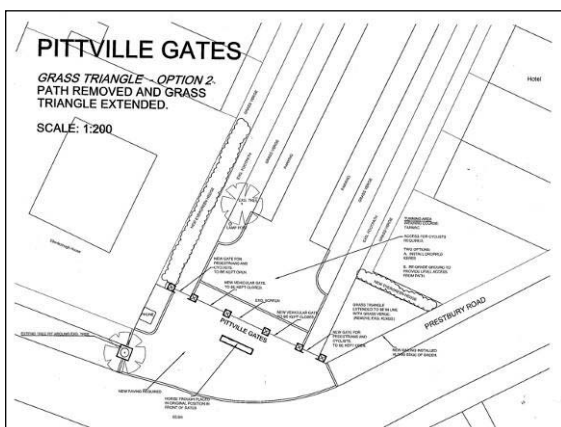


One of the architects prepared some plans for a restoration in the early 1980s which for a number of reasons did not come to fruition.

We include this perspective drawing here, which is interesting to compare with how we are thinking.

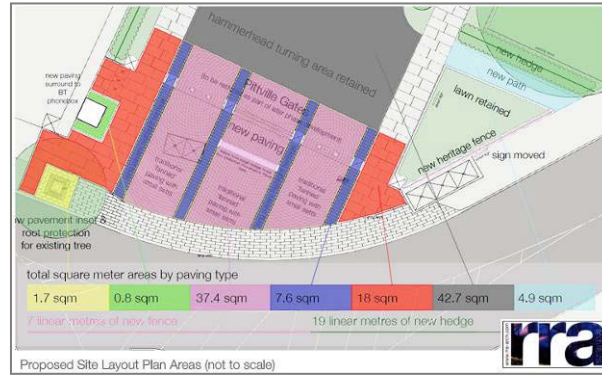
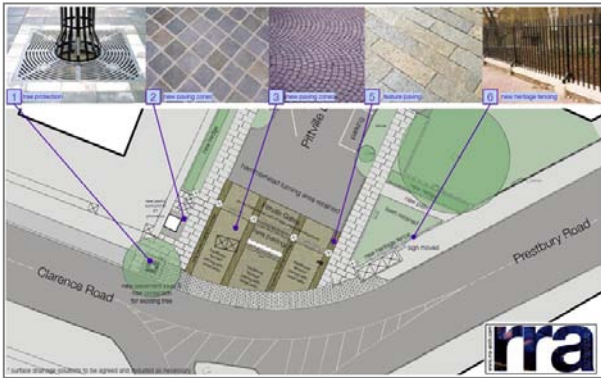
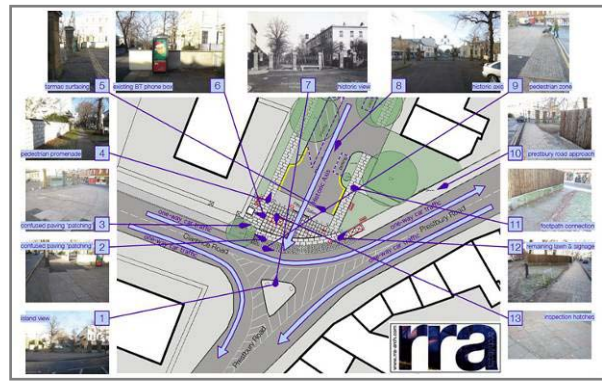
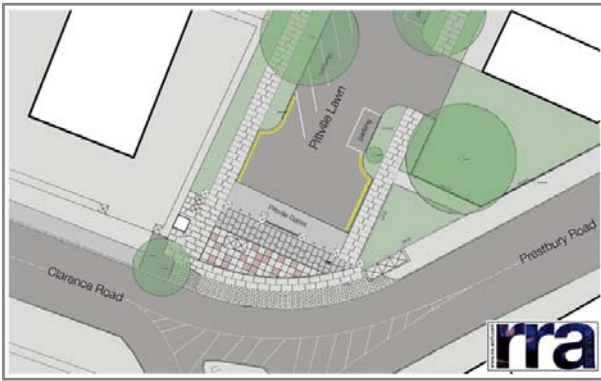
[Click here](#) for a larger version

There are several other plans and drawings:



Suggested options from Cheltenham Borough Council ([Click here](#) for larger versions.)

There is a set of four drawings on the following page from RRA Architects.



You may see larger versions by [clicking here](#).

It is important to understand that these are not the final proposals, e.g. the paving or kind of surfacing around the Gates is particularly difficult to resolve because of issues such as cost, durability, attractiveness and authenticity.

Public consultation

We have kept Friends informed of progress through e-mails (and a letter for those members not on e-mail). We are always seeking the views of the wider public through our printed newsletter and web-site.

In December we wrote to 200 businesses and residences in the streets nearest the gates, and on Saturday 26 February had a very successful open meeting as a 'Gathering at the Gates'.



We designed a structured interview covering the key proposals and this was completed by 29 of the many people who visited the site over the three hours. *(Photographs courtesy of Terry Langhorn)*



Interest and enthusiasm was very high, and there was almost unanimous agreement on several questions, e.g. the colour of the iron work, replacement of the current lamps with period ones, information boards, removing the footpath in front of the wooden fence and having railings along the grassed area beside Prestbury Road.

The Borough Council's landscape architect was there, as was one of the ward councillors, and the police dropped by too.

[RRA Architects](#) have kindly provided these design concepts for the gate.

Again, larger versions can be seen by [clicking here](#).



We would very much appreciate your input on this project. If you would like to give your views please download the Questionnaire. There are two versions; one in [Word format](#), which you can complete and [email to me](#), or a [pdf format](#) which you can print, complete by hand, then hand in or post to:

Secretary, Friends of Pittville
3 Burston House, Pittville Circus, Cheltenham GL52 2PU

Thank you.

Fiona Clarke

Hon. Secretary
Friends of Pittville