



## Restoration of Pittville Gates

The aim of this project is to recreate the historic entrance to Pittville Park, as it was in the heyday of Victorian Cheltenham

### The Vision

#### What we want to see

- Restoration of one of Cheltenham's most important 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural landmarks (grade 2 listed)
- To commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 – the ironwork on Pittville Gates was erected in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year, 1897, so this would be [a fitting tribute to the current queen](#).
- Providing an imposing yet welcoming entrance to Pittville Park (along the original route from the town centre to the park)
- Re-creating the well-known 1904 vista, which is seen in postcards and photographs from that period
- Enhancing the experience of visitors to the Holst Museum, opposite the gates
- And being the central part of a marked historic walk/leaflet from the town centre to the Pump Room via the 'Portland' Chapel, Trinity Church, (detour to shops in Prestbury Road), Central Cross Cafe, the underpass beneath Evesham Road, the boathouse and the bandstand
- Eventual reversal of the traffic flow along Winchcombe Street and Clarence Road, so that the gates are more visible to the motorist (or two way traffic re-instituted)
- Providing modern amenities for the pedestrian, cyclist and motorcyclist
- In a safe, simple, and softened setting of natural stone paving/resin bound gravel and lawn, hedging, slender trees and shrubs

#### How we achieve this

##### The gates

- gate piers replaced by new Forest of Dean stone piers the same as originals circa 1830
- 'elaborate wrought iron overthrow bearing the Cheltenham Coat of Arms' restored to original 1897 condition
- central lantern hanging in the overthrow replaced, to 1897 design
- remaining four lanterns replaced by replicas close to 1830s originals
- gates to both pedestrian and both traffic entrances replaced to original 1830s specification
- gates, railings and overthrow to be painted black, not green, with gold detail

- appropriately designed and situated plaque to acknowledge contributions from major donors
- removal of junction box on Pittville Lawn side of gates and, if necessary, placed in less visible position

### **The surrounding area comparable to the best known view of the gates circa 1904**

- railings along Prestbury Road side of the current lawned triangle to right of gates
- amend car turning point in Pittville Lawn to a semi-circle, without indents as at present
- levelling the area on both sides of gates to road level - natural stone paving/[resin bound gravel](#) to south and lawn to north
- re-instating large trough in front of central gates (which are to be kept closed)
- no bollards in traffic gates as these gates will be replaced and kept closed
- pedestrian gates open
- negotiate with owner of house on right to replace wooden fence with railings and hedge along Prestbury Road, Pittville Lawn and facing Winchcombe Street (as per 1904); if not possible, plant tall hedge along fences facing Winchcombe Street and Pittville Lawn OR plant whole area with shrubs (see Plantings below)
- could inset some of the original tram track in the area to south of gates

### **Plantings**

- no modern planters (in plastic or any other material)
- tallish slim evergreen tree in lawned triangle (not a conifer) OR cover with shrubs
- similar tree or floral display in traffic island (similar to the one just put in on Prestbury Road roundabout) - if traffic island has to be kept (see Traffic island below)
- heavy black and gold bollards such as in park already around area south of the gates OR a box hedge to surround it, to height 400mm - as suggested in HLF bid

### **Signage**

- 'no entry' street signage to be compatible with gates and better placed
- road signs in area to be compatible with gates

### **Lighting and camera**

- removal of street light on left on Pittville Lawn (if facing the gates) or replacement with appropriate period light
- CCTV camera to survey area sited sympathetically

### **Modern amenities**

- heritage interpretation board at gates (and plaques/boards for buildings on the walk to the Pump Room)
- seats (1904 period style) for pedestrians on northern side of gates
- rubbish bins (1904 period style) near seats

- signpost (same as other black and gold ones in town centre) to park with distances to cafe, playground, pump room, boathouse
- replace telephone box with 1930s red telephone box OR do we need one at all these days?

If thought appropriate and necessary, there could be provision for parking of bicycles and motorcycles in the vicinity of the gates, but not interfering with the historic landscape.

### **Traffic island**

- repair of traffic island on junction of Clarence Road, Winchcombe Street and Prestbury Road, and replace lights/bollards with ones more sympathetic to area
- OR replace with a mini-roundabout with floral planting – this would bring the park more into the town
- OR ideally, remove traffic island altogether, and paint road with appropriate signs, including pedestrian crossing markings (but no lights please)
- alter pedestrian crossing points so that they are on each of the three roads, not through the traffic island/mini-roundabout

Friends of Pittville  
Pittville Gates Sub-Committee  
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