

Heritage Lottery grant to plan Central Square

The Trust has successfully bid for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to draw up plans for the restoration of Central Square. A committee made up of representatives from the Residents Association, the London Borough of Barnet and the Trust made the application, and the grant has enabled us to appoint a firm of landscape consultants to carry out the work.

The Square is owned by the London Borough of Barnet and has always been maintained as a public open space. Any plans for the Square must tackle the drainage issues that have caused problems since the 1930s but

proposals for renewing the paths, benches and litter bins and providing updated lighting will also be considered.

A local resident recently contacted the Trust to say “I do think Central Square is not as amazing as it should be. Obviously, the buildings are pretty extraordinary, but the green space and planting are really a bit of an anti-climax. The planting is very much what I think of as civic roundabout-style: banal and uninteresting. Also, the space sometimes strikes me as a little lacking in life and perhaps underused. If ever there were a space crying out for lovely, simple care this is it.”

Consultation with residents will be a critical part of the process to establish how local people wish the space to look and how they would like to use it.

An exhibition will be held in one of the marquees during the Proms at St Jude’s in June and all visitors will be given the opportunity to put forward their views.



Box cut trees and herbaceous planting define the character of Central Square in the 1930s

