We have pledged to become a carbon neutral city by 2030. It’s an ambitious target but, as one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency, we believe we should be leading the way to support the city’s residents, visitors and those who work here to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the whole city to as close to zero as possible.

The Valley Gardens Phase 3 project will help towards achieving these aims by enabling sustainable transport choices with new segregated cycle lanes and more direct, and traffic-free, walking routes, overall creating a more people friendly environment.

In October 2018 we sought views on a preferred design for this area. Results from this consultation were used to develop a design which was approved by the council’s Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee in February 2019.

Key principles in the approved design include replacing the current Palace Pier roundabout with traffic signals to improve the road layout, providing segregated cycle lanes, improved crossing points and new spaces for people to enjoy such as space in front of the Royal Pavilion.

The technical work that has already been undertaken, and taken into account, shows that the agreed design best meets all the project’s core objectives.

This design will:
- Improve the travel experience for pedestrians and cyclists
- Enhance the overall experience for public transport users
- Simplify the road layout for motorists
- Improve road safety
- Enhance the environment of a key visitor destination and arrival point in the city
- Provide a space that is inclusive and accessible to everyone

In this final stage of consultation we therefore want your views on details within the scheme, such as the location of pedestrian crossings, bus stops, cycle parking and parking, public art, seating and tree planting.

Please take the time to read this information and complete the questionnaire at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/valleygardens
These are some of the updates to the design that were made in response to feedback received through the consultation in 2018.

“I support the suggestions made by Brighton & Hove Buses and Brighton Area Buswatch for a new southbound bus lane”

We have included new southbound public transport priority lanes for buses and taxis.

“It would be better to have the cycle lane on the western side of the gardens”

We have realigned cycle routes – notably moving the north-south route from the east side to the west side of the Old Steine.

“For me, direct walking routes where pedestrians are away from cars and bicycles is the top need”

We have moved pedestrian routes across the Old Steine to access main destinations and realigned the cycle route in front of the Palace Pier to make it safer for both pedestrians and cyclists.

“Just make sure there are enough bus stops – very crowded at the moment”

We have increased the number of bus stops and revised some locations.

“Why remove doctors’ parking spaces outside GP surgeries?”

We have included provision for designated doctors’ parking bays.

“Taxi ranks need to be controlled a bit more as queuing can get a bit out of control sometimes”

We have introduced an improved taxi rank and shelter to the south of the Old Steine.

“Are there parking bays for disabled persons?”

Parking bays for disabled people (Blue Badge holders) are in Prince’s Street and to the south-west corner of the Old Steine.

“There doesn’t appear to have been any provision made for delivery or service vehicle access or loading”

We have included loading bays by Palace Pier, to the south of Prince’s Street and near the Youth Hostel Association.
Frequently Asked Questions

How will the project affect air quality in the area?
Air quality levels within the area are well within legal limits and are predicted to remain so following construction.

How will the scheme benefit pedestrians?
There will be more direct routes to the seafront, and other attractions, as well as to events in the Old Steine area. New signalised crossings will be installed to improve safety at St James’s Street and at the seafront. All crossing points will be designed to be user-friendly for everyone, including people with disabilities and those with buggies and push chairs.

How will the new areas of public space be used?
There will be more areas for people to sit and relax in the area. At least 30 new trees will be planted and we are currently exploring the best places for these to be sited. The setting around the War Memorial will be improved and we are considering ideas for new uses for the Art Deco bus shelters such as cafes or kiosks.

How will cycling in the area be affected?
A new two-way cycle lane will provide a safer and more direct link to the seafront, where it will connect with east-west routes across the city and beyond. Safety will be improved by separating cyclists from pedestrians with a kerb, where possible, and by re-aligning the seafront cycle lane in front of the Palace Pier. New cycle parking will be provided and the location and capacity of BTN Bikeshare hubs in the area will be reviewed.

How will bus services be affected?
All existing routes will still pass through the Old Steine and it is predicted that journey times will be improved. New stops will be provided at Castle Square, Old Steine and Pavilion Parade. All new bus stops will have accessible kerbs, shelters and real time information. There will be no change in coach access to Pool Valley.

Why is traffic being moved to the eastern side of the Old Steine?
This will simplify the road layout and provide a direct route to and from the seafront. Buses will no longer be routed northwards past the Art Deco bus shelters as this would require two additional junctions, which would increase delays for all traffic. Re-routing of buses has allowed the creation of new public spaces in front of the Royal Pavilion.

Why is the roundabout being replaced by traffic signals?
A signalised junction is predicted to reduce the likelihood of road traffic collisions. The agreed, revised layout will also make the most efficient use of space, allowing for direct walking and cycling crossing points to be introduced. The council’s traffic control centre will monitor and regulate traffic flow through the new junction, especially at busy periods.

Will access to Madeira Drive be affected?
Madeira Drive will be made entry only from the Palace Pier. While most of Madeira Drive will be two-way, there will be no through-route for general traffic travelling westbound towards the Palace Pier from Duke’s Mound. This is to improve the efficiency of the new Palace Pier junction and to prevent westbound rat-running along Madeira Drive. We are exploring exemptions for emergency vehicles and to manage events.

Traffic will exit Madeira Drive using two signalised junctions at the top and bottom of Duke’s Mound. These junctions have been included and assessed as part of the planning application to enable the Black Rock site to be redeveloped and have now been agreed by Planning Committee.

Will there be a loss of car parking in the Old Steine area?
The number of parking spaces in the area will reduce from 49 to 21. Parking spaces will be prioritised for doctors and Blue Badge holders.

How will Prince’s Street change?
Prince’s Street will be entry only from its southern end. This will improve access, especially for emergency service vehicles. Traffic will exit Prince’s Street by turning left onto Edward Street.
For information only - These plans show the proposed layouts of the junctions linking Madeira Drive with the A259. The designs will enable the safe passage of all vehicles onto and off the A259 and also provide improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. They have been agreed as part of the approved planning application for the Black Rock Rebuilding Works at the eastern end of Madeira Drive.
What happens next?

The results of this consultation will be reported to the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee on 24 November 2020 together with any proposed changes to the detail of the design. The committee will then make a decision on the final design. It is expected that construction could start in Spring 2021 and be completed by Autumn 2022.

More details and information about the agreed design can be found at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/valleygardens

Please use the information to complete the questionnaire online.

If you need to complete a paper copy, please email transport.projects@brighton-hove.gov.uk with your details and add Valley Gardens Phase 3 in the subject title. We will then send a copy in the post.

The closing date for all responses is 16 September 2020.