

# Alston Front Street Redevelopment



**Cumbria County Council will be installing a trial section of cobbles (also known as setts) to Alston Front Street in the Spring.**

The 2m by 6m trial panel by the Market Cross will be made of local Alston stone laid in two laying options, to test their strength and durability. Work is expected to start in March and will take a minimum of six weeks to complete (depending on weather conditions and temperatures). The work will be completed under traffic lights signals to keep traffic flowing through the town.

Laying the setts is expected to take three weeks. It is vital the specialist mortar has time to harden, so on completion the site will remain under traffic lights for a further period of between three to four weeks, depending on air temperature to allow the materials to cure.

Following this, the county council will carry out visual monitoring and material testing of the finished surface as well as on the foundation itself. The testing will help to assess how the trial panel performs.

Cumbria County Council has committed to designing and paying for a 'Phase One' scheme. This will see improvements to a section of road adjacent to the Market Cross as agreed with the Front Street Steering Group. Funding is being sought for phase two work, which incorporates the areas of Front Street below and above the Market Cross.

Over the summer last year, the council looked at all the options regarding appointing the best team to lead on the design process for phase one. When considering the requirements together with the additional information gathered through ground investigation works and local stone testing it was decided that Cumbria County Council's in-house team is best placed to lead the design process. The project team will be supported by the specific technical capabilities and experience of an external pavement expert who has been supporting the project in an advisory capacity since early 2019.

Following the trial panel being laid in the Spring, a further information session will be held detailing the next steps for the project. The county council's highway team continue to monitor the condition of Front Street in order to keep the condition of the road safe. Any necessary repairs will be planned to minimise disruption.

## Alston Front Street Steering Group

To help oversee the project there is an established steering group made up of local businesses, residents and organisations who meet on a regular basis to provide valuable input into the Front Street redevelopment project.

Alston Front Street Steering Group:

- Alston Moor Business Association
- Alston Moor National Farmers Union
- Alston Moor Parish Council
- Alston Moor Partnership
- Alston Youth Club
- Cumbria County Council
- Eden District Council
- Historic England
- Save Alston Front Street group



**Timeline  
and next  
steps**

**Work is now underway by the council to deliver phase one, which will see improvements to a section of road adjacent to the Market Cross. Funding is being sought for phase two work, which incorporates the areas of Front Street below and above the Market Cross.**

**Phase 1**

The Front Street project team have been working with the local community over the last year regarding the road surface on Front Street and how its character can be maintained. As a result of these discussions, local people asked that the council look to focus some immediate efforts into delivering phase one. They also asked the council to investigate the possibility of reinstating natural stone setts, rather than asphalt, so long as it was safe, technically and financially possible, as any final road surface would need to meet the high safety requirements of an A road.

The council has identified suitable natural stone setts sourced from a local quarry, which have undergone a series of essential technical safety tests and have been approved for their suitability for use on a carriageway. Design work is ongoing and any final design will need to be within the funds now allocated by the council and will be subject to further consultation. Delivery of 'phase one' is likely to be carried out from Summer 2020 (weather permitting).

**Summer 2020**

Work to start on the ground to deliver Phase 1.

**Spring 2020**

2m by 6m trial panel of setts installed by the Market Cross, made up of local Alston stone laid in two laying options, to test their strength and durability. Further information session to be held detailing the next steps for the project.

**25 January 2020**

Drop-in event organised for Saturday 25 January 11am - 4pm at Alston Town Hall for the community to learn more about the project and give their views on where crossing points should be within the overall design and also on the suggested diversion routes that could be used when phase one of the works starts later in the year.

**Summer 2019**

When considering the requirements together with the additional information gathered through ground investigation works and local stone testing it was decided that Cumbria County Council's in-house team is best placed to lead the design process for phase one. The project team will be supported by the specific technical capabilities and experience of an external pavement expert who has been supporting the project in an advisory capacity since early 2019.

**May/June 2019**

Cumbria County Council allocates funding for Phase 1 of the project. This will see improvements to a section of road adjacent to the Market Cross.

**April/May 2019**

Investigation work into the use of local stone for use in the carriageway and into the foundation of the road.

**February/March 2019**

Work to upgrade the steps around the Market Cross and the renewal and refurbishment of street light equipment on Front Street (both independent of this scheme but Cumbria County Council led schemes).

**19 January 2019**

Drop-in event held to advise on the progress of the Front Street project and give community chance to ask questions.

**October 2018**

Maintenance programmed works commenced. Cobbles lifted and stored, replaced with asphalt.

**Drop-in events held on 3 May and 27 June 2018**

Consultation on public realm options started.

**Autumn 2017**

Front Street steering group created to develop designs and investigate the possibility of external funding for a longer term solution.