



Uxbridge on the track of massive shake-up

PEOPLE should be able to walk around Uxbridge and enjoy their favourite spots without having to dodge traffic, the Hillingdon Herald team were told the council took us on a tour of the town centre.

Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Growth at Hillingdon Council, had agreed to be our tour guide as he outlined new plans to revitalise the town centre. I was joined by Herald

reporter Ryan Gurnett while Mr

Tuckwell was assisted by a council press officer.

As we strolled past familiar shops, cafes, and bustling crowds, Cllr Tuckwell - who was also the local MP until earlier in the year - shared his connection to Uxbridge, a town that has been his home for much of his life.

“I remember walking down this very street as a child, meeting friends and chatting with locals,” he said. “It’s that strong sense of community that’s always stuck with me, and it’s something we want to protect as we move forward with the town’s redevelopment.”

The plan for Uxbridge Town Centre Revitalisation aims to balance the charm and history of the town with modern updates to its infrastructure. The goal is to make the town a better place for residents to live, work, and enjoy, while also boosting local businesses and making it more pedestrian-friendly.

Cllr Tuckwell explained that this project is about creating a space where everyone—whether they’re walking to the shops, working at a local business, or simply enjoying the parks—can feel connected.

“We want to make Uxbridge a town where people can walk from their homes to their favourite spots, without feeling like they’re dodging traffic,” said the council press officer accompanying us, above the noise of the traffic passing us by.

One of the key features of the plan is the expansion of green spaces, particularly around Fassnidge Park and Dowding Park, both just a short walk from the high street. Cllr Tuckwell emphasised how important it is to have easy access to these parks, not just for

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relaxation, but as a place for the community to come together. “Having green spaces nearby is so important for the well-being of our residents,” he said. “It’s about creating a town where people can enjoy the outdoors and spend time with their families without having to travel too far.”

The redevelopment also includes transforming the old multi-storey garage into a creative hub, providing space for local artists and entrepreneurs to work, create, and showcase their talents. Cllr Tuckwell sees this as a way to make Uxbridge a cultural destination, where innovation and creativity can thrive. “We want to offer flexible spaces for art studios, pop-up events, and more,” he explained. “Uxbridge has so much potential, and this is about tapping into that energy.”

As we continued our walk, Tuckwell also highlighted the upcoming upgrades to Uxbridge Library in the civic centre, which will play an important role in the town’s redevelopment. The library will offer improved facilities, new educational resources, and digital services, helping it remain a key hub for the community, he said. Readers of the Herald will be no doubt aware of the controversy surrounding the plans last year to move to the civic centre from the existing library site in the town.

But the redevelopment isn’t just about adults—it’s also about involving the younger generation in the process. “The youth are the future of Uxbridge,” Cllr Tuckwell noted, referring to students from local schools who will be invited to share their ideas during the consultation. “We want to make sure the town centre remains a vibrant and inclusive space for future generations.”

The consultation period is still ongoing, and Cllr Tuckwell is eager for more residents to have their say. “We want this plan to reflect the needs of everyone in the community,” he said. “Whether you’re a business owner, a parent, or a young person starting out, your voice matters.”

As the consultation moves forward, the first draft of the proposal is expected to be finalised by the end of the year, with further opportunities for feedback. The hope is that the revitalisation will bring Uxbridge into the future while staying true to the values that have made it such a beloved town.

On a side note, Mr Tuckwell was formerly MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip until the General Election in the summer. Last year, he sparked controversy on social media by asking for a new fish and chip shop in the town, despite the council refusing an application for one previously. When asked this month if the new plans will include a fish & chip shop, his answer was very clear: “Absolutely.”