



# Frequently asked questions about The Mayflower Forest – part of The Road to Mayflower Project

January 2020

## 1. What is The Road to Mayflower and how does the project relate to 2020?

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower from Plymouth UK to Plymouth Massachusetts USA.

Plymouth's local construction and built environment professionals are keen to play their part in helping the city prepare for the Mayflower 2020 commemorations. Over the past two years we have been planning together through the Building Plymouth partnership, to 'get on board' for a construction industry volunteering led Mayflower400 'Adopt a Street' project - The Road to Mayflower.

Our Vision: To leave a lasting legacy for 2020 by transforming the welcome experience at Marsh Mills Roundabout and along Embankment Road, in order to deliver a world class visitor impression for Plymouth, Britain's Ocean City.

This project is endorsed by Destination Plymouth, Mayflower400 and Plymouth City Council.

## 2. Who is leading The Road to Mayflower project?

The Road to Mayflower team is made up of professionals who have pledged voluntary help and support. They represent the following local organisations: AECOM, AWW, Building Plymouth, Currie & Brown, Hoare Lea, KPMG, Stride Treglown, SWH, Womble Bond Dickinson and YGS Landscapes.

We have set up 'The Road to Mayflower (R2M) Company Ltd' as a private company limited by guarantee with six appointed Board of directors:

- David Bayliss – Stride Treglown
- David Skelton - WBD (Chair)
- Emma Hewitt – Building Plymouth
- Karl Friedrich – Hoare Lea
- Rachel Dyer – AWW
- Steve Warren-Brown – YGS Landscapes

All decisions relating to the project design, delivery and financial decisions are approved by the Board of Directors.

There is a project board consisting of the board of directors and key stakeholders.

### **3. Why are we delivering The Road to Mayflower?**

In response to the Mayflower400 'Make a Difference' campaign, as a team of committed volunteers, we want to positively impact on people's perception of our city and leave a lasting legacy for 2020.

Our objectives align with the aims of Plymouth's specific Mayflower400 goals:

- Improve the welcome for visitors entering the city from the A38 and travelling along the key gateway route, the A374
- Catalyse improvements to physical space and experience transforming residents and visitors' experience of Plymouth
- Facilitate residents' engagement including the local business community, leisure users, people living on or around the street, people looking to get into work and raising aspirations with young people
- Enhance Plymouth's perception through showcasing our history and heritage of discovery
- Leave a lasting and sustainable legacy with opportunities for ongoing development
- Instil civic pride in our residents, children and young people
- Enhance the image of construction and the built environment industry

### **4. What are the key projects for The Road to Mayflower?**

The intent is to deliver all projects during 2020:

- Creating a green gateway at Marsh Mills Roundabout – The Mayflower Forest
- Illuminating the Plymouth Ski Slope for 2020 commemorative periods
- Public Art: Welcome to Plymouth Art Panels and Bridge Art on Embankment Road

For further information and progress on the key projects please visit:

[www.buildingplymouth.co.uk/road-to-mayflower/road-to-mayflower-projects](http://www.buildingplymouth.co.uk/road-to-mayflower/road-to-mayflower-projects)

### **5. What is The Mayflower Forest project?**

As The Road to Mayflower 'Jewel in the Crown' project, we plan to deliver a new landscape design to revitalise Marsh Mills Roundabout as a green gateway transforming the visitors' arrival experience as well as delivering significant environmental benefits.

Our vision is to retain the best elements of the existing green infrastructure and enhance them, to provide an elegant sophisticated gateway to the city.

The concept has developed into the Mayflower Forest, a lasting legacy project for Plymouth with the capacity to wow, delight and inspire the residents, visitors and guests to our City.

Our design will focus on creating an urban forest of mainly silver birch trees and using local stone to create an artistic dry river bed. The scheme directly relates to the Native Americans who used birch as an important construction material and is a species both

native to the British Isles and North America. We propose to use as much of the pre-existing scheme as possible, and plant over 1000 trees.

## **6. What benefits will this project deliver for residents of Plymouth?**

Through planting over 1,000 trees, our new landscape design will transform the visitors' arrival experience as well as deliver significant environmental benefits for local people of the City.

Our Mayflower Forest on Marsh Mills Roundabout will deliver a lasting legacy for 2020 through:

- Improvements to aesthetics and visual amenity so that the concrete jungle of the city's main gateway becomes green, lush and so much more attractive
- Biodiversity especially for insects and other invertebrates with the installation of species rich grasslands
- Carbon sequestration – important for the highly polluted area of Marsh Mills
- Sustainable urban drainage
- Trapping particulates on leaves to improve air quality
- An improved key gateway into the city – impressing visitors and enjoyed by residents who use this highway regularly
- Ongoing seasonal interest
- Support for Plymouth's Plan to increase its tree cover

## **7. What benefits do trees bring to our cities, health and wellbeing and reasons why we need to plant more?**

Trees have 350 million years' experience looking after our planet. Luckily, when modern cities started to form someone had the clever idea of planting trees there too, so we could enjoy the benefits they bring even in our urban communities.

And our urban trees are pretty amazing. Not only do they provide a source of beauty and interest in the otherwise urban landscape, they have crucial environmental benefits and give all us city-dwellers a place to relax, away from the stresses and strains of everyday life. As trees grow they help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. Trees provide many benefits to us every day.

But our urban trees have come under increased threat in recent decades and we are now at risk of losing the lungs of our towns and cities. Every day more than 50 urban trees in the UK disappear; as a result of aging, disease or simply increasing city sprawl. With 80% of us now living in urban areas, we now need our trees more than ever for the following key reasons:

- They produce Oxygen
- Carbon and carbon dioxide, storing it and soaking it up...
- They clean our air
- Protecting us from flooding

- They're keeping things cool
- A helping hand for wildlife
- They're good for our mental health and wellbeing

## **8. Who is leading The Mayflower Forest design and project delivery?**

Reporting to The Road to Mayflower Board of Directors, the design is being led by leading construction consultants at AECOM (Landscape Architecture) who are appointed as in-kind Principal Designer, AWW (Architecture) and YGS Landscapes (Landscape Contractors).

The project delivery partners are:

- Burrington Estates – donated the 300 tonnes of granite stone from the Stowford Mill site in Ivybridge for creating the dry river bed
- Gilpin Demolition –providing plant and labour to create the dry river bed effect
- Groundfix Ltd – project managing Phase 2 as appointed in-kind Principal Contractor (see below)
- Jeremy Bishop Haulage Ltd – delivering the 300 tonnes of granite stone to Marsh Mills Roundabout
- YGS Landscapes –delivering the planting and landscape services, project managing Phase 3 (see below)

The design and programme of works has been developed in conjunction with key stakeholders: Plymouth City Council, Highways England and SWH.

## **9. What is Plymouth City Council's role in delivery of The Mayflower Forest?**

Plymouth City Council endorses The Road to Mayflower project and more specifically, delivery by the construction industry of The Mayflower Forest on Marsh Mills Roundabout as a legacy project for 2020 as part of the city's Mayflower commemorations.

Plymouth City Council Strategic Planning and Natural Infrastructure Team have been heavily involved in shaping and approving the design of the project. Plymouth City Council's Highways and Strategic Transport teams have also been engaged particularly given the co-ordination needed to future proof the Forest design from impact of further infrastructure changes on the roundabout.

The Cabinet member for Street Scene and the Environment and Cabinet member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure have approved the final design specification after agreement by The Road to Mayflower Board of Directors and Plymouth City Council officers.

Plymouth City Council will be leading Phase 1 of the enabling works (see below) as part of the Delivery Programme for the Plan for Trees.

There has been no direct funding from Plymouth City Council to deliver the project, however funds from the City Change Fund and Section 106 have been competitively accessed.

## **10. What is the overall programme of works?**

The overall phases for Landscape Works will be -

### **Phase 1: Enabling works (Plymouth City Council led) – w/c 2 December 2019**

- Vegetation & site clearance
- Tree/ stump removal
- Waste management

### **Phase 2: Dry stream works (Road to Mayflower led) – w/c 27 January 2020**

- Existing surface treatment and preparation
- Delivery of boulders
- Stream construction

### **Phase 3: Planting (Road to Mayflower led) – February/March 2020**

**Maintenance** – Led by in-kind support by YGS Landscapes for two years post project delivery and then handed over to Plymouth City Council Spring 2022 for ongoing maintenance.

## **11. What will happen during Phase 1: Enabling works?**

As part of the Delivery Programme for the Plan for Trees, Plymouth City Council staff are supporting the Mayflower Forest scheme by providing initial landscape works to prepare the site for the formal landscaping phase. This will involve staff using brushcutters and chainsaws to clear scrub and bramble to provide space for the new planting as part of the Mayflower Forest as well as a number of larger trees as part of ongoing management for tree health. This will include the removal of any dead, diseased or ill formed trees, including thinning out where this is required for good arboricultural practice, which would be part of the normal maintenance regime of the original scheme.

This work commenced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 and is expected to take 4 days to complete the vegetation clearance and ground preparation. There are no lane closures required but staff will be accessing the central reservation in vehicles via suitable access points.

During early December 2019 the public will see Plymouth City Council staff undertaking tasks associated with vegetation & site clearance, tree/ stump removal and waste management.

## **12. What will happen during Phase 2: Dry stream works?**

Under the flyover, due to the rain shadow effect, operational requirements and the inability to plant trees we plan to create interest through the use of locally sourced granite boulders to create a dry river bed effect. The height of the dry riverbed is proposed to be no greater than 1.2m in height.

After Phase 1 (the enabling works/ site clearance) is delivered by Plymouth City Council, the public will then see the delivery of the 300 tonnes of boulders to Marsh Mills

Roundabout by Jeremy Bishop Haulage from their compound in Lee Mill. This will be project managed by Groundfix Ltd who are moving and placing the boulders to an agreed plan under the direction of a landscape architect from AECOM and YGS Landscapes. It is expected that January 2020 the stream construction will get underway with Gilpin Demolition providing plant and Groundfix Ltd continuing to project manage the construction process.

Alongside the boulder delivery there will be works on the existing surface treatment and preparation for planting.

### **13. What will happen during Phase 3: Planting?**

Subject to weather and progress on the project we expect that during February and March 2020 the public will see YGS Landscapes staff undertaking tasks associated with planting. The soft landscaping works are expected to be delivered inside a month but will be weather driven.

Led by YGS Landscapes under the instruction from the Board of Directors, over 1000 trees will be planted on and around Marsh Mills Roundabout – a combination of the best elements of the existing soft landscape such as the existing birch and oak trees, plus new birch trees of differing sizes at close centres to mimic a natural pioneer woodland.

YGS Landscape plans to plant an understory of wildflower turf which will be visually stimulating and add biodiversity value to the area.

### **14. What will be the maintenance programme post project delivery?**

Maintenance will be managed by in-kind support by YGS Landscapes for two years post project delivery (until March 2022). Plymouth City Council will then continue with their existing responsible role in delivering maintenance landscape works on Marsh Mills Roundabout.

### **15. What about permissions and risk management?**

Plymouth City Council's Planning Department has assessed The Mayflower Forest project and confirmed that planning permission is not required for the landscape works including planting and boulders. However the design of the project will be required to comply with highways regulations and a road safety audit has been undertaken. In addition utility providers have all given consent for the project design.

Highways England have been involved with the design and implementation of the project. A Marsh Mills Roundabout Ecology Report has been conducted by AECOM with no arising issues presented.

Risk assessments and method statements will be developed and approved by the Board of Directors to support Phase two and Phase three of the finalised landscape scope led by The Road to Mayflower team before works commence on site.

The Road to Mayflower (R2M) Company Ltd will instruct contractors to lead Phase 2 and Phase 3 ensuring their responsibility for public liability insurance. It is expected that the local authority will hold public liability insurance to undertake Phase 1 given the existing responsibility for site maintenance and management.

Legal advice and contractual guidance is being led by Womble Bond Dickinson, who act as Chair of The Road to Mayflower Company Ltd.

We are not expecting to disrupt traffic as Phase 2 and Phase 3 works will be concentrated inside the safety barriers on the existing roundabout. The only exception will be delivery of the boulders and plant however this will be managed and organised during off peak times to minimise highway issues for access to the roundabout. Advance notice will be provided through both Road to Mayflower social media channels as well as through Plymouth City Council social media channels, and through SWH.

#### **16. How is The Mayflower Forest project being funded?**

Our volunteer led project is attracting significant in-kind support from the construction industry and has also successfully generated the following income:

- Crowdfunding campaign = £43K (raised by over 220 businesses and individuals donating over Summer 2019 including match funding from the City Change Fund)
  - Section 106 funds = £30K (bid successfully to access funds which mitigate the impact of developments on the local community)
  - Private sector sponsorship = £15K (sponsorship from GroundFix and AECOM)
- = Total budget available £88K

#### **17. How does this fit in with the Plymouth Road scheme?**

Delivery of The Mayflower Forest is being led by The Road to Mayflower (R2M) Company Ltd. This is a completely separate project to the Plymouth Road scheme which is being led by Plymouth City Council.

Further information can be found:

[www.buildingplymouth.co.uk/road-to-mayflower/the-road-to-mayflower](http://www.buildingplymouth.co.uk/road-to-mayflower/the-road-to-mayflower)

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