

# 5. A High Quality Public Realm

## The Parish Green

This ongoing project aims to secure the restoration and improvement of the churchyard to the Parish Church, the Rectory Wildlife Garden and the surroundings to the Rectory Museum. The proposals involve the connection and revitalisation of three relatively small and currently separate areas to create a significant, integrated and inviting and attractive public space for the benefit of the local community and visitors. Furthermore, the project will create a more appropriate setting for the Grade I listed Parish Church and Grade II\* listed Old Rectory, and an enduring and respectful memorial for the generations of Loughborough people buried in the churchyard.



All Saints Church



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## Design Palette

Currently there is a wide range of different furniture and surfacing treatments in evidence across all the spaces that make up the public realm. They create a disparate and incoherent sense of character across the Town Centre. In addition in some cases furniture which is in poor condition or is poorly sited detracts from the function of the spaces. A new approach to furniture and surfacing treatments is needed which integrates the whole public environment and signals in design terms the quality of the key public spaces in the Town Centre.

A cohesive design scheme can utilise a common palette of surfacing and furniture elements to create a recognisable identity for the public spaces in the Town Centre. Replacing the current furniture with modern suite of complementary elements, including bins, benches, bollards, cycle racks etc will create new spaces that work to address the needs of pedestrians. "Quality" before "quantity" will be the watchword in the selection of new street furniture. This should be supported by a quality surfacing, subtle detailing and tree and shrub planting appropriate to the location to create well designed spaces.



Street Furniture, Sheffield

The public realm works will include the integration of new public art, building on current work such as The Sock and the Town Hall Passage Mosaics. The Council recognises the important role that public art can play in enlivening the atmosphere and quality of public spaces as well as enhancing local character and distinctiveness and acting as a vehicle for involving local artists, schools and the community.



Street Furniture, Sheffield



The Sock Man

