

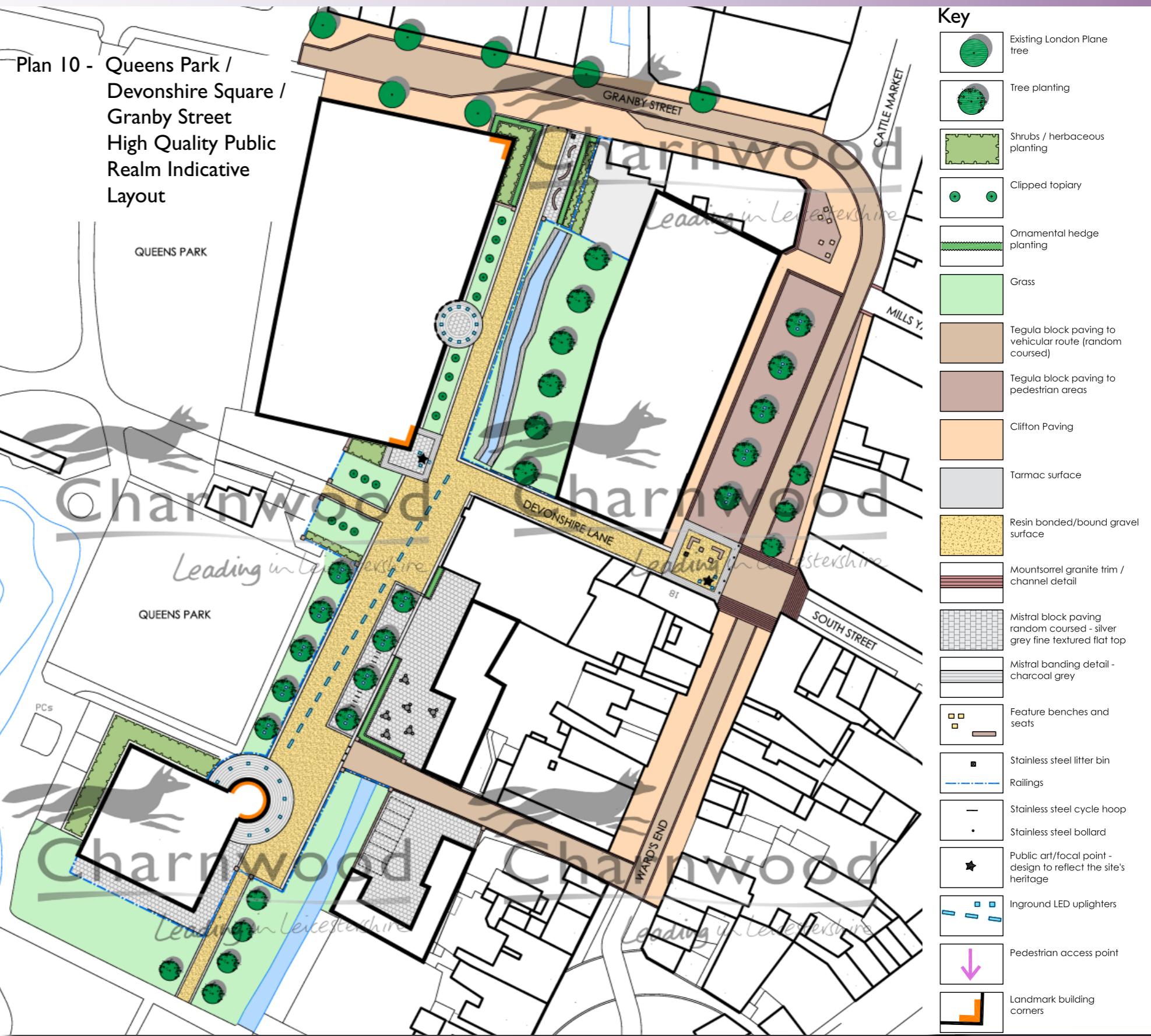
5. A High Quality Public Realm

(iii) Queens Park / Devonshire Square / Granby Street

At present Devonshire Square lacks a coherent sense of place and is dominated by vehicles and car parking. The existing spaces do not function well as part of the public realm in providing safe, pedestrian friendly areas. Pedestrian movement from Wards End to Cattle Market and Market Place is hindered by a central reservation island and narrow footways. The pedestrian entrance to the existing public car park from Devonshire Square is via a back lane where poor lighting and materials hinder access and devalue the impression of the Town Centre.

The Masterplan proposes new high quality development within this area overlooking Queen's Park (see section 7). It raises the possibility of re-routing the Wood Brook and creating a positive water feature as long as this can be done without damaging the special character of the Park. It is also proposed to open up new access points to Queen's Park as part of this development and create a new urban public space that links the Park with Devonshire Square and the existing pedestrianised areas of the Town Centre. This new space will be surrounded by high quality development, which could include new arts provision. Cafes, bars and restaurants on the ground floor would help create a lively and vibrant environment.

Plan 10 - Queens Park / Devonshire Square / Granby Street
High Quality Public Realm Indicative Layout



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by Bellinger Design with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Charnwood Borough Council. License number: 100023558. August 2007

5. A High Quality Public Realm

The public realm improvements will:

- Create a multi-purpose square that is flexible and addresses the differing needs of the community throughout the day. Space would be provided to allow the market to function whilst allowing delivery access to business.
- Create attractive footways through quality resurfacing treatments and introducing better lighting and street furniture to create a continuous streetscape from the Town Centre along Wards End to Bedford Square.
- Allow car access to Devonshire Square during the evenings for parking. This would encourage a vibrant and busy nightlife and provide additional parking for the cinema and possible adjacent arts complex. The parking bays would be fully integrated into a cohesive design in which the carriageway does not dominate the streetscape.
- Improve access to retained parking at Granby Street car park.
- Provide an attractive pedestrian link with Queen's Park, connecting the park with the Town Centre and promoting use of the park as a throughway, including pedestrian bridges over any new water feature.
- Cycle access through this area is likely to be needed as part of desired east to west and north to south links.



Carillon Tower, Queens Park