

Whilst part of the car park will be demolished, the scheme will retain a large section of it for leisure uses such as urban mini golf, against the clock games such as virtual reality and escape rooms and family activities such as soft play and indoor climbing. This will provide much needed wet weather activity in the town centre.

The Town Centre Masterplan identified a decline of traditional led retail in the Town Centre and for leisure uses to bridge some of this gap. Currently there are only 4% of leisure type uses in the Town Centre and therefore there is an opportunity to increase this.

The retained section of the car park will include a new entrance lobby providing access to all floors including the roof of the retained car park. The leisure activity will be placed in the spaces to the rear and above the existing shops on London Road North. A section of the first floor of the car park will be removed to create a new double height space to allow activities such as the climbing walls to be installed.

These design changes will activate not only the rear car park space but also the frontage onto London Road North and Gordon Road reinforcing the link between the high street and the new cultural quarter. The open space on the roof will be developed for a 'pop up use', with different types of activities being provided depending on the time of year. This could include pop up bars, outdoor cinema, exhibition and event spaces and linked activities relating to other festivals such as First Light.

The brutalist raw aesthetic of the car park is to be retained, an architectural insertion of a polycarbonate circulation core provides access to the new competitive leisure uses on all floors. A steel staircase will navigate the existing concrete frame creating a sculptural statement within the existing car park.



Circulation Core



Battery Green Beacon

The backlit polycarbonate sheets emit a radiant glow, serving as a beacon that draws attention to the cultural quarter, creating a visual appeal. These sheets are strategically used as a background material to complement the existing brutalist structure without overshadowing or distracting from it.

View from Upper Terrace

