

# Market Street: new focus on public space beyond vehicular movement

## EXISTING CONTEXT AND IDENTITY

Market Street is a local high street within the town centre and consists of a mix of historic buildings with a retail ground floor and 1-2 stories of residential above. The independent stores within narrow buildings are flanked by pavements that are often occupied by bins and spill out from shops, limiting pedestrian movement.

The car dominated narrow street is a single, one way lane with a lane of parking on either side. The street lacks trees or greening within the public environment.

Active travel access across Exchange Road is poor due to narrow pavements and a three lane road. The Holy Road Catholic Church marks the gateway to the town centre, though it is surrounded by some poorly maintained contemporary buildings framing the intersection.

## CHALLENGES

- The active travel crossing across Exchange Road is extremely poor and severs Market Street into two parts.
- The eastern part of Market Street has a dedicated bike lane but this does not continue across the Exchange Road to the western part of market Street and beyond the town centre.
- Poor public realm lacking active travel routes, clear and quality paving and street greening.
- Car dominated environment.

## ASPIRATIONS FOR THE AREA

Market Street has the potential to improve its character, strengthen its identity as a local high street and further support the town centre. There is opportunity to transform the currently car dominated space to become a more public and active travel focussed street. This will improve the setting of the historic buildings on the street, make it easier to access on foot and enhance the setting for the commercial activity, with more dedicated space for them to spill put into the public space. The two parts of Market Street can become one continuous space.

## POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

### Character & Townscape

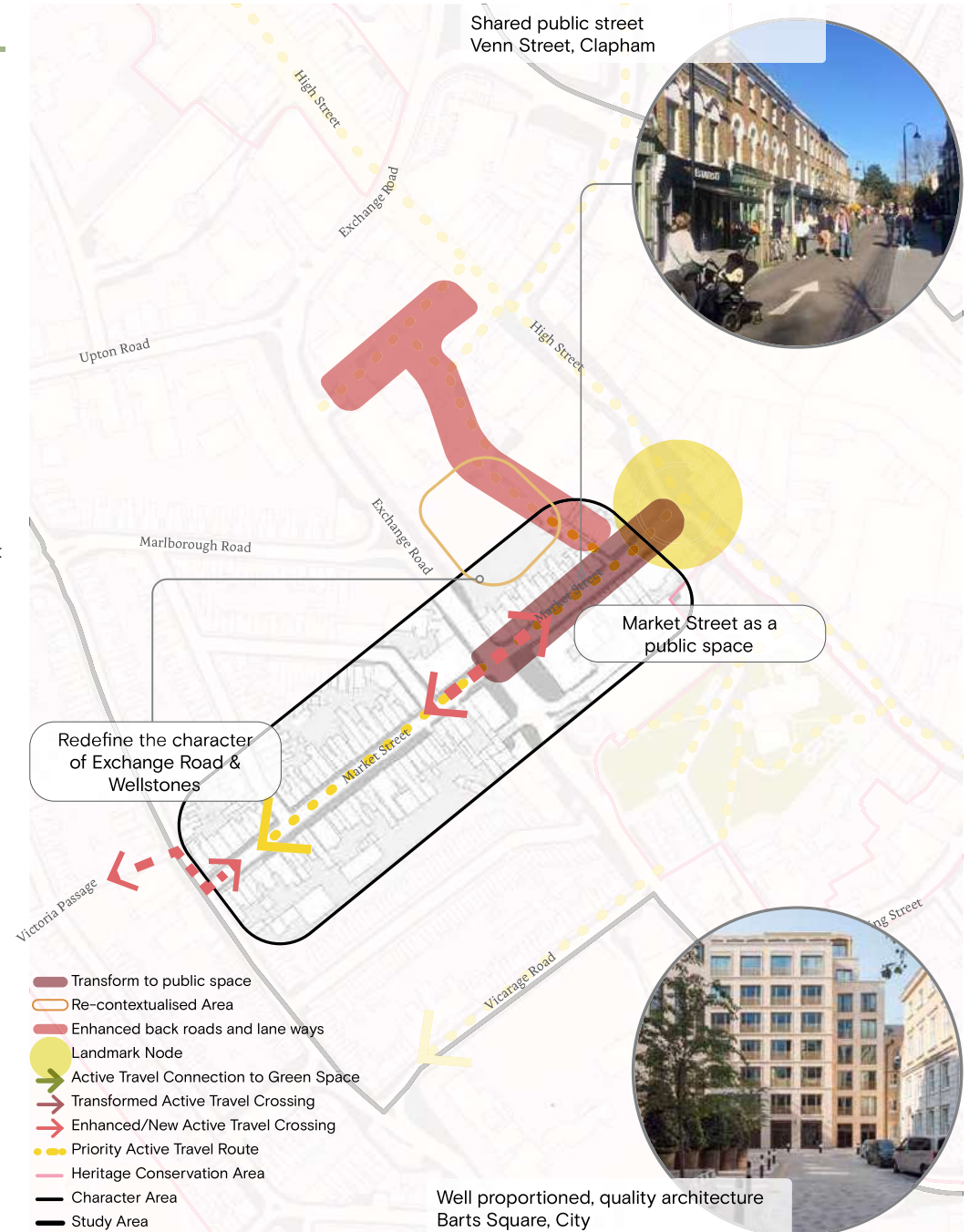
- Transform Market Street into a public space

### Public Realm

- Create a positive public realm landmark node on the High Street at the transition to Market Street.
- Re-imagine Market Street as a public space rather than a vehicular highway by reducing car dominance, widening pavements and introducing landscaping with seating.
- Potential for all streets to accommodate SuDS as part of a wider network strategy, and to introduce greening throughout.

### Movement

- Enhance active travel connections from the High Street, across Exchange Road along Market Street and out towards Victoria Passage.



## Case Studies

### VENN STREET, CLAPHAM BY URBAN MOVEMENT



### Shared public street

Typical of many streets, they are dominated by kerbside parking on both sides of the carriageway. The outdoor seating for the street's cafés and restaurants were restricted to narrow strips adjacent to the building frontage, limiting the streets commercial potential and forcing pedestrians into single file due to narrow foot ways. Resident and business parking bays were relocated to both ends of the street freeing up space in the middle. A single flush 'shared' surface was created to accommodate tables and chairs, trees, seats, cycle stands and whilst maintaining through traffic. A weekend road closure now allows the market to operate weekly.

### WALALA PARADE, LEYTON HIGH STREET ABSOLUTELY STUDIO



### Leyton High Road

Leyton High Road, home to the vibrant community in Leytonstone, East London, has been transformed with a colourful and innovative design, with the efforts of local residents and artists.

The addition to Leyton High Road has re-energised the urban landscape with an explosion of creativeness, colour and joy above the shops and cafés.