

District Wide Regeneration Framework Annual Review

Appendix Two

Marlborough Square

Marlborough Square has been comprehensively redesigned to create a high-quality, flexible civic space at the heart of Coalville town centre. The scheme includes a central outdoor market and events space, high-quality street furniture, bespoke seating inspired by the National Forest, raised planting areas, feature LED lighting and premium granite paving, significantly enhancing the appearance and functionality of the square.

The introduction of a new one-way traffic system and restricted vehicle access to the northern section of the square has prioritised pedestrian safety and accessibility, creating a more welcoming and user-friendly environment.

The redesigned square provides a versatile space capable of hosting a wide range of markets, events and community activities throughout the year, strengthening its role as a key destination within the town centre. The scheme complements the nearby Newmarket development, expanding opportunities for cultural programming, public events and commercial activity. Together, these assets contribute to the ongoing regeneration of Coalville, supporting increased footfall, community engagement and town centre vitality.



Mantle Lane

Mantle Lane Bridge has been refurbished as a key gateway improvement project within the Coalville Regeneration Framework, enhancing an important arrival point into the town centre and celebrating Coalville's industrial heritage. The scheme included the complete repainting of the bridge in heritage railway colours and the installation of new railings, creating a more attractive and welcoming approach to Memorial Square.

The project was delivered through a partnership between North West Leicestershire District Council, Network Rail, Leicestershire County Council, Coalville Heritage Society and adjacent landowners, including Harlow Brothers and the Springboard Centre. Further enhancements, including new lighting, will continue to strengthen the visual appearance of this prominent town centre gateway.

Funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, alongside contributions from Network Rail and Leicestershire County Council, the project supports the wider objectives of the Coalville Regeneration Framework by improving the quality of the public realm and reinforcing local identity.

Mantle Lane Bridge occupies an important place in Coalville's history. Opened in 1912 to replace a level crossing that had become increasingly congested as the town and coal mining industry expanded, the bridge improved access to the town centre and facilitated growing levels of rail traffic. The refurbishment preserves and enhances this historic landmark, recognising its significance to Coalville's development while providing a more attractive and distinctive gateway for residents, businesses and visitors.



Moira Furnace

Moira Furnace has undergone a comprehensive programme of restoration and improvement works, securing the long-term future of one of North West Leicestershire's most significant heritage assets and visitor attractions. The project addressed longstanding water ingress issues affecting the Grade II* Listed Scheduled Monument, safeguarding the historic structure while improving accessibility and the overall visitor experience.

The scheme included extensive repairs to the furnace building, alongside the renewal of visitor signage and interpretation boards to enhance understanding of the site's industrial heritage. Complementary improvements to footpaths and public spaces within Moira Furnace Country Park were delivered in partnership with the National Forest, creating a more welcoming and accessible destination for residents and visitors.

Delivered through a partnership between North West Leicestershire District Council, the Moira Furnace Museum Trust, the National Forest and specialist contractors, the project supports the Council's wider regeneration and tourism objectives by enhancing the quality of the visitor offer, protecting a nationally important heritage asset and strengthening the area's appeal as a destination.

Constructed in 1806, Moira Furnace is recognised as one of the best-preserved blast furnaces in the United Kingdom and represents an important part of the district's industrial heritage. The restoration preserves this landmark asset for future generations while reinforcing its role as a key cultural, educational and tourism destination at the heart of the National Forest.



Mother and Child Statue

Commissioned for the opening of the Belvoir Shopping Centre in 1963, the sculpture depicts a mother and child alongside a shopping bag containing objects that represent key aspects of Coalville's history, including coal mining and textile manufacturing.

As part of the Coalville Regeneration Framework, the statue has undergone a comprehensive restoration programme. Conservation works returned the sculpture to its original bronze appearance and revealed a number of previously unseen details, including a finely sculpted zip on the rear of the mother's dress and the identification of an oil tanker within the shopping bag, replacing the long-held assumption that the object represented a battery.

The restoration has preserved and enhanced an important piece of Coalville's cultural heritage, ensuring its continued prominence within the town centre. The project also provided an opportunity to better understand the artist's original vision and the symbolic references embedded within the sculpture, further strengthening its connection to Coalville's industrial past.

The statue has a notable history of its own. Following redevelopment of the shopping centre, the artwork was removed and destined for disposal before being rescued by North West Leicestershire District Council and relocated to its current position outside Coalville Library in 1988. Its restoration safeguards this valued landmark for future generations and supports the wider objectives of the Coalville Regeneration Framework in celebrating local identity, heritage and pride of place.



Memorial Workspace

The Memorial Workspace project transformed a former 1920s public convenience building in the heart of Coalville into a modern business workspace, bringing a historic town centre asset back into productive use. The careful restoration and repurposing of the building preserved its character while creating high-quality commercial accommodation for local businesses.

The development delivered flexible office space designed to support start-ups, small businesses, and growing enterprises, with two lettable units that can operate independently or as a combined workspace. Shared facilities, a central location close to Memorial Square, and excellent access to public transport and parking enhanced the appeal and accessibility of the development.

By creating new opportunities for business growth and investment within the town centre, the project contributed to the wider regeneration of Coalville, supporting economic activity, encouraging entrepreneurship, and increasing the use of a previously underutilised building.



Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre

The Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre project delivered a state-of-the-art, multi-million-pound leisure facility that significantly enhanced the local health, fitness, and wellbeing offer for residents across the district.

The development provided modern and accessible facilities, including a new swimming pool, gym, and studio spaces, creating increased opportunities for physical activity, recreation, and community participation. Designed to meet the needs of a wide range of users, the centre offers high-quality health and fitness facilities within a contemporary and welcoming environment.

Located on the edge of the town, the leisure centre was developed with excellent active travel links, making it easily accessible by foot and bicycle and supporting more sustainable travel choices.

The project strengthened the district's leisure infrastructure, promoted healthier lifestyles, and established a modern community asset that supports wellbeing, participation in sport and physical activity, and the long-term health of local residents.

