

**CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE**

**27 April 2011**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Bell (Chairman) (P)

Collin (P)

Hiscock (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Tait

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1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 January 2011, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr J Spokes and Mr P Grant spoke regarding Report CAB2146(TP) and their comments are summarised under the agenda item below.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Tait (a Ward Councillor for St Michaels) raised a query regarding progress on the introduction of a disabled parking space in Canon Street, Winchester, which had been agreed at a previous Committee meeting held on 8 March 2010. The Head of Access and Infrastructure explained that there were a number of difficult issues involved in this matter, due mainly to a lack of agreement between residents of the Street as to the best way forward. He advised that he would provide the Committee and Ward Councillors with a briefing note explaining the various issues and setting out the latest situation.

3. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCEPT FOR ACCESS) – GREAT MINSTER STREET AND THE SQUARE, WINCHESTER**

(Report CAB2164(TP) and Addendum refer)

Councillor Collin declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in the Report due to his role as County Councillor for the area. He spoke and voted thereon.

The Committee noted the Addendum to the Report had not been notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Addendum replaced Appendix B of the Report (Detail of Proposed Restrictions), by correcting a minor title reference and also proposed the retention of the existing width limit sign at the entrance to Great Minster Street. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda in order that the amendments contained therein could be considered at the meeting.

During the public participation period Mr J Spokes and Mr P Grant addressed the Committee and their comments are summarised below.

Mr Spokes concerns related to the proposed removal of the existing width limit sign, but this had been addressed by the amendment in the Addendum to the Report, referred to above.

Mr Grant spoke as the Chairman of the St Swithuns Street and Symonds Street Residents' Association and the Chairman of 'Shabby Winchester' and expressed thanks for the proposals on behalf of both groups. However, he raised a few detailed points:

- The "except for access" restriction could be abused and consideration should be given to removing the parking spaces in the Square to further discourage traffic;
- A physical barrier should be installed to physically prevent vehicles wider than 6 feet from driving into the area;
- Further consideration should be given to the impact of the Wednesday Street Market in the High Street on the proposals, as this prevented vehicles from accessing The Square via the High Street and therefore would encourage more use of the alternative access via Great Minster Street.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure emphasised that the "except for access" proposals aimed to achieve a balance between the sometimes differing requirements of local residents and businesses in the area. The Committee noted that the drainage works required in The Square would require its closure to all vehicles for approximately six months and this would mean that people will have to find an alternative route in the meantime which would hopefully deter its use as a through route in the longer term.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that the introduction of physical barriers had been considered but were not generally favoured by local businesses. In addition, it was felt that traders in The Square wanted the parking spaces to be retained to encourage visitors to shops and businesses. However, the use of the parking spaces would be monitored.

With regard to the concerns raised about the potential impact of the Street Market in the High Street, the Committee requested that this matter be examined in more detail, in conjunction with the Estates Division.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Tait expressed his thanks and support, as a Ward Councillor for St Michaels, to City and County Officers for

their work with local residents and businesses to achieve the consensus approach suggested.

Committee Members supported the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Great Minster Street, The Square, and Market Street and associated streets, as detailed in Paragraph 1.11 of the Report. The County Council has granted approval for this scheme to be formally advertised and for the City Council to take this scheme forward as a reserved matter under the terms of the Traffic Management Agency Agreement.

The Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposal to prohibit motor vehicles (except for access) in Great Minster Street and The Square, Winchester, as detailed in the Appendices to the Report (as amended by the Addendum) be formally advertised for comment.

2. That the proposal for a 20mph speed limit detailed in Paragraph 1.11 of the Report be formally advertised for comment.

3. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to prepare the necessary draft Traffic Regulation Orders and associated notices to be advertised.

The meeting commenced at 8.50am and concluded at 9.30am

Chairman