

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE

10 June 2011

Attendance:

Councillors:

Weston (Chairman) (P)

Cooper (P)

Humby (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Collin, Mather, Sanders, Scott and Tait

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Mitchell

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 27 April 2011, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr J Spokes, Mr P Grant and Miss E Crawley spoke regarding Report CAB2176(TP) and their comments are summarised under the agenda item below.

Mr Kingshott raised general concerns about the use of advisory disabled parking bays and, in particular, relating to a bay outside his property in Canon Street, Winchester. He stated that the advisory nature resulted in vehicles without a disabled parking permit parking in the bay.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure explained that there were particular issues regarding the proposals for Canon Street, which had been discussed with residents and local Ward Members in an attempt to find a solution. The Chairman requested that an update be provided to Mr Kingshott outside of the meeting.

Mr M Stokes (owner of Winchester Photographic in St Georges Street) queried when the bus stop situated outside Jo Jo Maman Bebe would be moved along St Georges Street, to be sited at the rear of Superdrug.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that he was aware of Mr Stokes' concerns and, although there were no plans to move the bus stop, consultation was currently underway regarding siting an additional bus stop behind Superdrug, which would help to address these concerns.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Tait and Scott addressed the Committee and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Tait expressed disappointment that the Committee did not include Winchester Town Ward Members, as most of the items it had considered recently related to the Town area. He also stated that he had requested a response at Cabinet on 19 May to the issues raised by Mr Kingshott, but had not yet received a reply.

The Chairman responded that she would ensure Councillor Tait received a reply to his concerns relating to Canon Street. In addition, she highlighted that it was the first meeting of the newly constituted Committee and any Councillor could attend and raise relevant issues or concerns.

As a Ward Member for St Luke, Councillor Scott outlined a number of specific concerns relating to parking and traffic issues in the Stanmore area, which he would also raise in a meeting with the Head of Access and Infrastructure. For example, he highlighted the importance of the parking review being carried out as soon as possible, in order to address parking issues prior to the start of the new University year. He also mentioned the introduction of drop-kerb parking on a mass basis and concerns regarding the siting of the pedestrian crossing at the top of Stanmore Lane.

Councillor Cooper stated that, as the Council's representative on Stanmore Combined, he was aware of all the issues raised by Councillor Scott and would offer support in seeking to address his concerns. The Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that a parking review of Stanmore would commence in June 2011 and confirmed that he would be meeting with Councillor Scott shortly, to address a number of the detailed concerns raised.

3. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – PROHIBITION OF DRIVING (EXCEPT FOR ACCESS) – GREAT MINSTER STREET, MARKET STREET AND THE SQUARE, WINCHESTER**
(Report [CAB2176\(TP\)](#) refers)

The Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that four representations on the consultation had been received, as outlined in Appendix D of the Report. The County Council intended to commence the refurbishment scheme on 4 July 2011, after the Hat Fair weekend. Discussions had already begun with affected businesses through the Business Improvement District (BID).

Three members of the public spoke during the public participation period and their comments are summarised below.

Mr P Grant (St Swithuns Street and Symonds Street Residents' Association – letter contained in Appendix D of Report) requested that the width restriction sign (subject to access) in Great Minster Street be removed. However, there should be an absolute prohibition on wide vehicles in the area and a sign installed at the St Swithun Street/Southgate Street junction.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure responded that this request was being considered, including the possibility of introducing advance warning signs at Southgate Street, to deter larger vehicles. Monitoring would be undertaken during the six month period of closure for the refurbishment scheme, to consider whether any adjustments to the Order as set out in relation to possible exemptions were required. He confirmed that an experimental order could be used, if considered necessary, to introduce such exemptions to the Prohibition of Driving.

Mr J Spokes raised a number of concerns, as set out in his letter (contained in Appendix D of the Report). In particular, he queried why the previous proposal to close Great Minster Street to traffic between 10am and 4pm had not been pursued. He believed that this would prevent conflicts between pedestrians and traffic at the busiest time of the day and also would be easier to police, as breaches would be obvious.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure explained that this previous proposal had been set out in the original consultation on the refurbishment scheme, but had not been welcomed by a number of residents and businesses. In particular, it raised issues of access for the elderly residents of Morley Cottages. The current proposal therefore aimed to balance the differing requirements of residents and businesses in the area.

Miss E Crawley (St Swithuns Street and Symonds Street Residents' Association – letter contained in Appendix D of Report) emphasised the need to warn drivers in advance of the proposed restrictions.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that advance signing would form part of the scheme.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Sanders, Mather, Tait (as Ward Councillors) and Councillor Collin (as a County Councillor) addressed the Committee and their comments are summarised below.

Councillors Sanders spoke in opposition to the proposals, as he did not consider it had the broad support of residents of the Ward and he believed the consultation process was flawed. He considered that the 10am to 4pm closure option had not been pursued by the Council because of the risk of Public Inquiry. He suggested access to the roads outlined in the Report should be for all Winchester residents. In summary, he considered that the County Council had restricted the City Council's options by insisting on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order, before it provided monies for refurbishment.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that the County Council would prefer to see some traffic reduction and thus benefits to residents, businesses and users of the area if high quality materials were to be used as part of the refurbishment of The Square. He advised that the 10am to 4pm closure option had received many objections and, if that option was pursued, he considered that a Public Inquiry may have been required. He reiterated that it was considered that the current proposals offered the best compromise.

Councillor Mather sympathised with concerns expressed by residents of Symonds Street and St Swithuns Street regarding the current traffic levels in the area. She considered that drivers might use the route to avoid traffic delays caused by the Southgate Street traffic lights and suggested the phasing could be re-examined. In summary, she did not support the proposals in the Report, as she considered the majority of residents of St Michaels Ward in general were against it. In addition, the consultation had been flawed as, for example, it did not require respondents to state their address.

Councillor Cooper noted that Councillors had raised a number of concerns about previous consultation undertaken (primarily by the County Council) which he would take further as Deputy Leader of the City Council.

The Head of Legal Services clarified that the prohibition of driving (except for access) would allow access to residents of the affected roads, in addition to any visitors to them or businesses in the area and people wishing to park in the on-street parking bays in The Square.

Councillor Tait congratulated both City and Council County Officers on their work in undertaking the different consultations and, in general, supported the Report's recommendations. However, he queried the effectiveness of the prohibition of driving in practice. He referred to the possibility of introducing two-way traffic in Market Lane to improve access to The Square, but recognised the issues in relation to the width of the road.

Councillor Collin reported that the original consultation had been clear that the scheme could either offer solutions for traffic or pedestrians and, favouring the latter, offered significant environmental gains and enabled high quality materials to be utilised in the refurbishment. He considered the current proposal was preferable to the 10am to 4pm closure option. He also welcomed the suggestion to monitor traffic movements during the period of closure for refurbishment.

Committee Members noted the comments made and considered that the Report's proposals offered a compromise between the differing needs of local residents and businesses. In addition, Members agreed that the proposals should be monitored and an experimental traffic regulation order be used, if required, to quickly address any issues that might arise.

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

RECOMMENDED:

That the City Council's contribution of £150,000 towards the cost of the refurbishment scheme for The Square and Great Minster Street, Winchester be approved for the purpose of Financial Procedure Rule 6.4 and paid to the County Council on completion of the scheme.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed Order for the Prohibition of Motor Vehicles (except for access) in Great Minster Street, Market Street and The Square, Winchester be approved as advertised.
2. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to prepare the necessary Traffic Regulation Order.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.10am

Chairman