

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM**30 September 2009**Attendance:Councillors:

Maynard (Chairman) (P)

Barratt (P)

Berry (P)

Fall (P)

Hicks (P)

Higgins (P)

Hiscock (P)

Love (P)

Mather (P)

Mitchell (P)

Nelmes (P)

Pearce (P)

Pines (P)

Sanders

Stephens

Tait (P)

Thompson (P)

Worrall (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Jackson

County Councillor Collin

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

County Councillor Porter

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 June 2009, be approved and adopted.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms Taylor and Councillor Jackson addressed the Forum in support of the recommendations regarding Report WTF135 and their comments are set out below.

3. PROVISION OF COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARDS

[\(Report WTF135 refers\)](#)

Ms Taylor addressed the Forum as a resident of Abbots Barton. She explained that there was not currently a noticeboard in the area and that a new board would help develop a greater sense of community.

Councillor Jackson spoke in support of the proposed new boards and, in response to her question, the Forum noted that the Head of Democratic Services held a database of those who were responsible for maintaining town centre noticeboards.

In agreeing the recommendations for the reasons set out in the Report, the Forum also noted that a possible source of funding for the noticeboards might be the County Council. The Head of Environment agreed to investigate this further, before committing any of the City Council's finances.

RESOLVED:

1. That the erection of a new noticeboard in Abbotts Barton and replacement noticeboards in Stanmore, using funds from the Town Account's Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces Budget, subject to advertisement consent from the Local Planning Authority, be agreed.
2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Environment for the future funding of noticeboard provision, following consultation with the Chairman of the Town Forum.
3. That, as part of the evolving budget process, consideration be given to establish a budget of £5,000 to fund such noticeboards in the future, in the event that the cost cannot be met from within existing resources.

4. **20MPH ZONES UPDATE**
(Oral Report)

At the previous meeting of the Forum (held on 10 June 2009), Members had welcomed the introduction of 20mph speed limit zones across the entire town (except for the main arterial roads).

The Head of Access and Infrastructure reported that the Chairman, County Councillors and officers had held a subsequent meeting, during which the County Council had been receptive to the Forum's recommendations.

At the invitation of the Chairman, County Councillor Collin added that the County Council was currently assessing the benefits of the proposed scheme and that once a decision had been made, he would forward this information to the Forum.

He also reported that the experience of Portsmouth City Council with 20mph Zones had seen a more positive effect in reducing traffic speeds than the Government's statistics had originally predicted.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

5. **REVIEW OF THE WINCHESTER ALCOHOL EXCLUSION ZONE**
[\(Report SO89 refers\)](#)

The Forum welcomed to the meeting Lorraine Ireland (the City Council's Community Safety Intelligence Researcher and Analyst) and Sergeant John Stribley (Winchester Town Safer Neighbourhood Team).

The Forum noted that the Report had been considered at the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel held on 16 July 2009 and its Chairman, Councillor Tait, reported that the Panel had highlighted the need for greater resources to be placed in outreach work. He reported that this had been accepted by the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety.

In response to a question, Sergeant Stribley spoke in support of the Alcohol Exclusion Zone (AEZ) as a tool the Police used to prevent incidents of disorder.

During discussion, the Forum also noted that policing in Winchester was due to be discussed at its next meeting (on 25 November 2009). In addition, it was noted that the AEZ signs were to be replaced with metal signs in a phased approach, with the design amended in accordance with Home Office best practice.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

6. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2010/11 TO 2014/15**
[\(Report WTF134 refers\)](#)

The Head of Finance explained that the Town Account's current reserves were approximately £10,000. It was likely that some of the pressures on the 2010/11 General Fund could have implications on the Town Account, which might erode that reserve further still. In response to a question, she stated that she was unaware of any proposals Cabinet might have at this stage which could affect the Town Account. She added that if the Account went into deficit and exceeded its reserve, this would be temporarily carried by the General Fund reserve.

The Forum noted the need to regularly monitor expenditure from the Town Account to avoid this scenario and welcomed comments by the Head of Finance that this information could be automatically provided, following the introduction of a new finance management system in April 2010.

The Chairman explained that the Town Account Informal Budget Group was meeting to investigate each of the Account's Budget Headings, to assess value for money and in preparation for the new Depot Services Contract.

During debate, the Forum noted the items of potential additional expenditure (items 10-13 of Appendix A refer). As one of those items related to a 50% contribution from the Town Account for public conveniences in the town, the Forum noted that all of the other affected Town and Parish Councils (apart from Wickham) had agreed to the Council's financial request relating to the conveniences in their own areas. The Corporate Director (Operations) reported that, as Wickham Parish Council had not done so, their conveniences were set to be closed.

In response to a Member's comment regarding physical damage caused by the construction of a new supermarket in Weeke, the Corporate Director (Operations) agreed to investigate any possibility for compensation.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Winchester Town Account Financial Strategy for 2010/11-2014/15 be approved.
2. That the 2008/09 Winchester Town Account outturn be noted.

7. **WINCHESTER FESTIVALS**
[\(Oral Report\)](#)

The Forum welcomed to the meeting Professor Turner, Ms Thomas (Hat Fair) and Ms Large (Winchester Writers' Conference).

Professor Turner gave the Forum a presentation. In summary, this explained how some of the major festivals in the town had begun to work together, in partnership with the Council, in order to realise more fully their significant economic and cultural potential. With the Council's help, they now had a festivals website, a new photo gallery (which would feature in a City Space exhibition in 2010) and a high quality promotional DVD.

Professor Turner concluded by saying that the group's next step was to investigate the use of banners on the approach roads to the town, to create a festival atmosphere in Winchester throughout the season and raise awareness of the events taking place.

Ms Large explained the work of the Winchester Writers' Conference and Ms Thomas commended the project and reinforced the need for Winchester to celebrate its existing festivals.

The Forum also watched the film (financed from LAGBI funding) which had been made to celebrate Winchester's festivals. The film could be viewed on the following site:-

<http://www.youtube.com/VisitWinchester>

During debate, the Forum discussed the role of the Cathedral and noted that, at this stage, the festivals group had limited itself to those who had a genuine and committed interest in working together. This ensured that the group remained manageable and made real progress.

At the conclusion of debate, the Forum thanked the presenters and, in particular, commended officers for the quality of the film shown.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

8. **WINCHESTER DESTINATION ACCESS AUDIT**
(Oral Report)

The Forum received a presentation from the Head of Economic and Cultural Services, which included a film regarding the provision made for disability access to the Cathedral.

In summary, the presentation set out the results of the Winchester Destination Access Audit for the town centre as a whole.

During debate, Members noted that there was no obvious group which represented disabled people's interests in the town, although Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) had been consulted amongst others.

The Forum also noted that, at a future meeting, it would receive a report on refurbishment of the High Street (although it was noted that there would be no Member involvement in the detailed design of the signs).

At the conclusion of debate, the Chairman thanked the Head of Economic and Cultural Services for the presentation.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

9. **WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM 2009/10 WORK PROGRAMME AND
THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**
[\(Report PS382 refers\)](#)

The Forum noted its 2009/10 work programme (which was attached to the agenda) together with the Scrutiny Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

That work programmes be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 10.00pm

Chairman