

**WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM**

**8 June 2011**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Collin (Chairman) (P)

Berry (P)	Pearce (P)
Higgins (P)	Pines (P)
Hiscock (P)	Prowse (P)
Hutchison (P)	Sanders (P)
Love (P)	Scott (P)
Mather (P)	Tait (P)
Maynard (P)	Thompson (P)
Mitchell (P)	Witt (P)
Nelmes (P)	

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Weston (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport) and Humby (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement)

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1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Collin be elected Chairman and Councillor Maynard Vice-Chairman for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

2. **MINUTES**

With regard to minute 6 on page 4 – Winchester Town Account Community Grants Revenue and Capital Awards 2011/12 (Report WTF156 refers), the Corporate Director (Operations) undertook to check whether a General Fund revenue grant of £1500 had been awarded to Winchester Mencap.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2011, be approved and adopted.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr and Mrs Sirl and Mr Slater (residents of Parchment Street) who wished to address the meeting with regard to Report WTF158.

Mr and Mrs Sirl and Mr Slater referred to Proposal 6 (as summarised at paragraph 2.3 on page 3 of the Report) which had been supported by the majority of residents across the whole town. However, Member's attention was drawn to apparent inadequacies and unintended consequences of the subsequent options put forward by officers as necessary to implement Proposal 6. It was therefore suggested that the Council instead implement only the original Proposal 6 as originally put to residents.

The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Sirl and Mr Slater for their comments, which were considered as part of the Forum's discussion of Report WTF158 later on the agenda.

The Chairman also welcomed Mr Hibbert-Hingston to the meeting who updated the Forum on the Winchester Street Pastors. He reported that the Winchester Street Pastors had almost completed their training, and that a commissioning church service would take place at the Cathedral on Sunday 12 June, to which Members of the Forum were invited. The Street Pastors would start patrolling the town centre from Saturday 18 June 2011 and then every Friday and Saturday night thereafter, between the hours of 9.30pm and 3.30am.

On behalf of the Forum, the Chairman thanked Mr Hibbert-Hingston for his update and looked forward to the Street Pastors making a positive difference to what was already a generally safe town.

4. **WINCHESTER RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME REVIEW – RESULTS FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION**  
[\(Report WTF158\)](#)

The Head of Access and Infrastructure verbally updated the Forum on a programme of forthcoming proposals to extend residents' parking zones in Winchester as set out below. Corresponding public consultation would be programmed accordingly.

- (i) Weeke – Stoney Lane, Lynford Road and Lynford Avenue (consultation period currently taking place until 16 June 2011)
- (ii) Stanmore – consultations with residents to take place in 2011/12
- (iii) Abbots Barton – consultations with residents to take place in 2011/12
- (iv) Winnall and Highcliffe - consultations with residents to take place in 2012/13

The Forum was also advised of changes to the traffic regulation order relating to the residents parking scheme with regard to potential abuse of visitor permits. The permit holder was now obliged to prove that the permit was being correctly used, and there was also a new procedure to deal with reported cases of alleged abuse of visitor permits. This system was now in use and 11 cases were under investigation, one of which had led to a penalty charge notice being issued. The Forum welcomed this more robust system and the undertaking from the Head of Access and Infrastructure that all

alleged abuses of the permit scheme would be investigated through the new procedure

The Forum discussed the programme of possible extensions to the residents' parking zones and noted that the programme had been delayed in some instances. The Head of Access and Infrastructure undertook to commence consultation on the proposals for Stanmore as soon as possible, subject to staff resources within his team. He also accepted that there should be consideration of a proposed zone encompassing all of Stanmore, as smaller zones within that area may otherwise merely displace parking around the estate. Further to a suggestion from a Member, he acknowledged that there was potential to work with the Head of Landlord Services with regard to engineering schemes in housing estates, such as implementing dropped kerbs, which may assist with alleviating parking congestion.

In response to further discussion, the Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that where there were no parking restrictions currently in place; the Council was unable to enforce against cars parking on grass verges or prevent overspill parking from commercial operations (such as Waitrose at Weeke) or against excessive on-street parking from non residents. He reminded the Forum that in such cases, any obstructions to private property would be a police matter.

The Forum referred to the results of the public consultation exercise on the residents' parking scheme review. The Head of Access and Infrastructure explained the likely consequences of implementing Proposal 6, i.e. users of residents' permits in inner zones being permitted to designate a second, adjacent zone to the one in which they live, in the hope that this could provide more opportunities to park. He explained that the Forum may wish to have regard to these consequences (as summarised at paragraph 2.7) as part of its response to Cabinet on the proposals.

The Forum referred to the comments made during the public participation session of the meeting, as summarised above. The Forum discussed Proposal 6, as set out at paragraph 2.3 of the Report and also had regard to Appendix 3 (comments made as part of the consultation responses) and in particular, Comment 20 – 'that use of residents' permits in Council car parks should be allowed'. It was noted that not all zoned areas had easily accessible adjacent zones or ones that were likely to have sufficient capacity to deal with any overspill from more congested neighbouring zones. Further to questions, the Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that off-peak car parking permits for use after 4pm and from 8am to 9am and at weekends, were available to residents for £100 per annum.

At conclusion of discussion, the Forum agreed that there should be further consideration of the use of Council owned car parks for possible residents' parking in certain circumstances, although it was accepted that this was likely to require a change of existing Council policy and would need to be considered carefully. Members considered that this proposal was unlikely to impact on car park revenue, especially as some town centre car parks were

underused in some cases. The Forum agreed this could provide a pragmatic solution to congested parking in some inner zones and this should be considered in conjunction with Proposal 6. However, Members also agreed that there should be further consideration by Cabinet as to whether Proposal 6 was appropriate and that there should be further public consultation on any revised proposals.

RESOLVED:

1. That the results of the public consultation on the Winchester Residents' Parking Scheme be noted.

2. **That Cabinet be requested to note the Forum's suggestions (as set out in detail above) regarding the possible extension of the use of resident's car park permits in inner zone areas and that this should be considered in conjunction with Proposal 6.**

5. **TOWN FORUM WEBSITE**  
[\(Report WTF159 refers\)](#)

At the previous meeting of the Forum, Members had indicated their support for a new Town Forum website. The Report set out a suggested range of issues that the new website could include and the probable costs to keep to the website maintained and updated.

Whilst acknowledging that an expanded and more interactive Town Forum website was likely to assist with engaging more residents with the work of the Forum, Members considered whether a more cost effective solution could be this to be hosted by the main City Council website.

Following discussion, the Forum agreed that the proposal be referred to the Town Account Informal Group, who, in due course, would consider it alongside other priorities for the town area.

RESOLVED:

That the issue of whether to establish a new website for the Winchester town area be referred to the Town Account Informal Group to consider alongside other priorities for the town area and that any decision to precede thereon be delegated to the Chairman in conjunction with the Corporate Director (Operations).

6. **WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM 2011/12 WORK PROGRAMME AND APPOINTMENTS**  
[\(Report WTF157 refers\)](#)

The Forum discussed a number of possible issues it could consider in the new Municipal Year and agreed to delegate to the Corporate Director (Operations),

in consultation with the Chairman, authority to agree a detailed programme from the following suggestions (set out in no particular order below):

- Updated 'Vision for Winchester' (which would have regard to the likely impact on the town area from the following three topics)
  - Results of 'Blueprint' and 'Plans for Places' consultation
  - Silver Hill
  - Barton Farm (planning appeal decision)
- 20 mile per hour zones
- Encouraging businesses to town centre sites
- Houses of multiple occupation
- The appearance and maintenance of landscape within the town area
- The success of the Winchester Market and use of The Square

It was also agreed that an update report be brought to the next meeting of the Forum on progress of the programme of bridge maintenance in the town area.

In addition, the Forum agreed that a public meeting of the Forum be arranged between its October and November meetings, with topics for discussion to be finalised at the Forum meeting scheduled on 5 October 2011. The Chairman also advised that he would consider whether it might be necessary to arrange an additional meeting in September.

The Forum also made its appointments to Informal Groups and outside bodies as set out below. The Forum also appointed a Vision for Winchester Informal Group that would convene to refresh and bring up-to-date the existing Vision document.

#### RESOLVED:

1. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Operations), in consultation with the Chairman, to set the detailed 2011/12 work programme from the above suggestions.
2. That an update report be brought to the next meeting of the Forum on the progress of the programme of bridge maintenance in the town area.
3. That the Town Account Informal Group be continued with a membership of Councillors Collin, Love, Maynard and Mather
4. That the Town Account Grants Informal Group be continued with a membership of Councillors Berry, Collin, Love, Tait, and Witt (Pines as an observer)
5. That the Vision for Winchester Informal Group be established with a membership of Councillors Collin, Hutchison, Thompson, Maynard, Pines and Berry

6. That the following representatives from the Town Forum be appointed to the Safer Neighbourhood Panel:

- St Barnabas: Councillor Witt (deputy Councillor Berry)
- St Bartholomew: Councillor Nelmes
- St John and All Saints: Highcliffe Community Action Group (Ms Austin) and Winnall Residents Association – to be confirmed
- St Lukes: to be confirmed
- St Michaels: Councillor Mather (deputy Councillor Sanders)
- St Pauls: Councillor Pearce (deputy Councillor Love)

7 That Councillor Mitchell be appointed as the Council's representative on the Winchester New Allotment Holders' Society.

8 That Councillor Collin be appointed as the Forum's spokesman at Cabinet meetings.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 9.10pm

Chairman