

Extinction Rebellion Petition

Health and Environment Policy
Committee

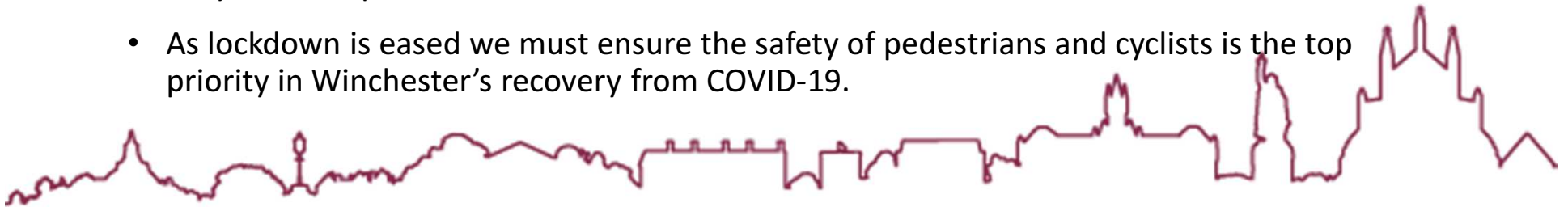
8th December 2020



EXTINCTION REBELLION PETITION – SUMMARY

Members are referred to Council minute (from meeting held 8th July) regarding the petition, this sets out full petition details and the Council’s full response which included asking this Committee to consider this matter.

- We welcome the intentions of Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council to create streets that allow pedestrians and cyclists to maintain 2 metre physical distancing. To be effective these measures must include:
 - 1) Reallocating one lane of traffic for use by pedestrians and cyclists on streets with the narrowest pavements,
 - 2) Restricting the use of inner-city car parks like Middlebrook, Colebrook and The Brooks to blue badge holders and residents.
 - 3) Prioritising public transport, blue badge holders, residents and emergency vehicles on our roads in the city centre.
 - 4) Pedestrianising areas where there is a high density of people
 - 5) Rethinking key routes into the city centre, reallocating space to pedestrians and cyclists on all approaches.
- Why is this important?
- As lockdown is eased we must ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists is the top priority in Winchester’s recovery from COVID-19.



COUNCIL HAS CONSIDERED THIS MATTER AND REFERRED IT TO THE COMMITTEE

- Council resolved ; that the matters raised in the petition be referred to a future meeting of the Health and Environment Policy Committee
- The Council minute is a very useful reference as it sets out the competing issues and other wider considerations to bear in mind.
- In summing up at Council, Councillor Tod reassured that there was an ongoing desire for Winchester and other centres to continue to thrive. As a consequence of the pandemic, people should be able to confidently access streets by ensuring that they are safe and practical. The Health and Environment Policy Committee would be able to give further detailed consideration and discussion of the matters presented in the petition so that a considered response can be provided.



COUNCIL MINUTE REFERS TO;

- Many of the points referred to in the petition regarding social distancing and wider pavements and separation and prioritisation of traffic were likely to be generally accepted. Existing poor air quality in the town area was an existing issue that must also be improved upon. Winchester draws in many visitors due to it being an administrative, tourist, educational and retail centre; as well as a transport hub and a place of work and an urban centre with a sizeable population.
- There must be safe separation between cyclists and pedestrians, as some cyclists travelled at speed.
- Some aspects of the petition were already in place, or under consideration as part of the Movement Strategy.
- Winchester city and the district's market towns all face economic challenges as a consequence of the pandemic. People needed to be able to access these centres to support businesses with their recovery. Car parks should remain open for visitors.
- Some historic city centres which have been fully pedestrianised have not seen a fall off in visitor numbers. Market towns and villages must also be considered as part of further discussion of the petition.
- Extinction Rebellion were encouraged to comment on the options and issues elements of the new Local Plan when this was published



CONSIDERATIONS

- HCC and WCC transport recovery measures.
- Winchester Movement Strategy
- Carbon Neutrality Plan
- Local Plan
- Recovery Measures to Support local businesses – across the District
- Delivery of the Parking and Access Strategy across the District

