
MEETING	ECONOMIC & CITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	17 MAY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS PIERCE (CHAIR), HUDSON (VICE-CHAIR), HOLVEY, HYMAN, KIRK, POTTER AND SCOTT
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR D'AGORNE

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests, other than the standing declarations, that they might have in the business on the agenda.

None were declared.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: (i) That the minutes of the meetings of the Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 February, 9 March and 24 March 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

(ii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Water End Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) Task Group held on 14 April 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It had been reported that there had been two registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Representations were heard from Mr Andrew Pringle, a resident of Westminster Road, in relation to Agenda Item 4 (Water End Councillor Call for Action(CCfA)-Final Report). He spoke about how he was pleased with the conclusion of the report, but that he was disappointed that point closure of Westminster Road and The Avenue was not included because he felt that the situation at the junction had been shown to be exceptional.

Further representations were heard from Mr Alan Wells, another resident of Westminster Road in relation to Agenda Item 4. He told Members that he felt that the situation with excessive traffic in the area was worsening and suggested that all through traffic should be stopped from using the roads.

He felt that there were two possible solutions;

- The return of the left hand filter lane by widening the road which could be done by the removal of the cobbles(which were currently unsafe for pedestrians), or to raise or fill this area to the level of the road, in order to retain the cycle lane.
- Point closure on Westminster Road and The Avenue.

7. WATER END COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION (CCFA)-FINAL REPORT

Members received a Draft Final Report on the Water End Councillor Call for Action(CCfA) to resolve traffic issues at the junction of Water End, Clifton Green, Westminster Road, The Avenue and Clifton Green.

Members commented that it was clear from the representations heard that the traffic problems in the area were not being resolved and were getting worse. They added that the left hand turn lane was the stumbling block but the solution to easing the problems would be to compromise by either closing off Westminster Road to through traffic or to change the junction dramatically to ease congestion.

Some Members supported point closure, as part of the junction improvements as suggested in the first recommendation, was the only sensible way forward to improve the junction and reduce traffic flows.

Other Members expressed concern at the first recommendation in its suggestion of allowing Officers to develop new proposals for the junction. They stated that they felt that a point closure on a temporary basis would be a solution to the congestion faced at the junction.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the final report be noted.
 - (ii) That new, comprehensive proposals be developed for the Water End junctions to improve the current junction and reduce traffic flows in Westminster Road/The Avenue.
 - (iii) That the Council should, in future, use traffic models which incorporate side streets when assessing and designing junction improvements.
 - (iv) That the present policy of reviewing new highway schemes only after a period twelve months should be modified in enable to a review after three months when unforeseen consequences have arisen and when Ward Members request.

REASON: To address the concerns raised in the Councillor Call for Action.

The Scrutiny Officer informed Members that a 'marking out' date, to arrange where retailers would like hoops, cycle stands and white lining to be placed, was in development.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and a further progress report be presented to the Committee after the next facilitated discussion.

REASON: To address the concerns raised in this CCfA.

10. WORK PLAN 2010 AND FORWARD PLAN EXTRACTS

Members considered the Committee's work plan for 2010/11 together with extracts from the Forward Plan related to the Committee's remit.

RESOLVED: That the work plan and Forward Plan extracts be noted.

REASON: To assist in the planning of work for this Committee.

Cllr R Pierce, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.55 pm].