

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 24 October 2013 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

Cllr	P.J. Lathey	D.G. Rickard
	C.M. Ray	K.G. Wallace

Also in attendance: Cllr Mrs M.J. Ray.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr A. Rutherford and Ms C. Woolner spoke in support of the petition from local residents, asking for residents parking in a section of St Andrews Road.

Mr M. Hicks, on behalf of West Bay Forum, spoke regarding the West Bay Enhancement Scheme and said that, whilst the proposed removal of the pinch point was welcome, it was hoped that the Town Council would support calls for the priority turn at the southern end of West Bay to revert to the harbour and for a designated pedestrian crossing place adjacent to St John's Church, to replace the island removed in the works. These issues could be dealt with at the same time as the pinch point.

12. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Ms S.J. Williams (ex-officio).

13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2013, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to noting that Cllr D.G. Rickard should have been shown as a member of the Sub Committee and not as "also in attendance". The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest. Cllrs C.M. Ray and Mrs M.J. Ray said that they lived just off St Andrews Road, but would not be affected by the proposed residents parking scheme (minute 22(h)).

15. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG

Mr Alan Williams, representing WATAG, updated members on a number of issues:

- It was understood that Dorset County Council was to consider option 4 in its review of subsidised bus services, although it was not clear at this time what this option was. The County Council were now attending WATAG meetings.
- Route 40 had been reversed, in its route to the hospital. This changed on 15 September, although without the timetable changes. The operator was also looking longer term at the timings of the 40.
- 253/44 – consideration was being given to taking this out of South Street, due to the road closures and to go along Sea Road South, but this would mean that residents of Vernons Court would lose a service.
- 31 – new timetable from 4 November, but on occasions this would mean that it would run almost at the same time as the X53 for part of its journey. The current time keeping for the 31 was not good.
- X53 winter service – still no change to the loss of the Sunday service, although options had been proposed by WATAG. The Sunday service may also not now resume until May.
- The coast road works would have implications for bus services and it would be interesting to know what the diversionary route would be, should there be an accident on the A35 during the works.
- Audio description on buses still causing issues with wrong information and the real time information on bus stops was still unreliable.
- As part of the review of services, WATAG had made representations to the County Council on options for some charging for journeys, that could help to retain services.

Members thanked Alan for his update, which was noted. It was also asked if more information could be obtained on the timings for the coast road works.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

16. PARK AND RIDE 2013

The Town Surveyor reported that the 2013 Park and Ride Service from West Bay to Bridport had been run by Sovereign Coaches and had proven to be very successful. It was delivered in partnership with West Dorset District Council.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

17. CAR PARKS – WEST DORSET PROPOSALS

Members welcomed to the meeting Chris Graves, Head of Parking and Traffic at West Dorset District Council. He said that he was seeking initial views on his annual car parking report and was meeting local stakeholders, including the Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the Town Council. He would also be consulting local district councillors and the County Councillor. He began by outlining some local issues that he was looking at, including car park signage

and options for car park machine. It had also been agreed to have free Christmas parking in all car parks.

The main draft proposals in his report were likely to be:

A general price freeze for charges, although East Beach Car Park would be reduced from £5 all day to £2 and a minimum tariff in all car parks of £2.00 (up from £1.70).

Proposed changing the times of the shopping permits (making them am or pm) and looking at weekly season tickets, including enabling hotels to buy 3, 5, or 7 day permits for their guests, for use at long stay car parks.

Finally, he was looking at introducing pay on exit technology as a pilot in one car park in Bridport and would be demonstrating the technology in November, at South Walks House.

Members welcomed the opportunity to comment and generally welcomed the aims of the proposals, although it was suggested that any changes to the method of payment at car parks needed to be as clear and as easy to understand as possible. The timings of the shoppers' permits might also need to be looked at for Bridport, bearing in mind the market.

It was stated that there would be more details provided and opportunity to comment, when the proposals had been finalised.

RECOMMEND: that the initial car parking proposals be noted with the comments above and a further detailed response be made, when the proposals were finalised.

18. TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC REVIEW UPDATE AND OPTIONS

The Town Clerk reported that initial discussions had taken place with Dorset County Council, but more time and discussion was needed before any options, including in relation to South Street, could be brought forward, to be considered for consultation.

RESOLVED: that the situation be noted and a further report be received at the next meeting of the Sub Committee.

19. PAY AND DISPLAY UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that the County Council's Cabinet was to be asked to review the policy relating to On Street Pay and Display across the whole county and how this should be applied and if agreed, then a Policy Development Panel would be established in this regard.

Members felt that it was important to keep the local petition going and it was hoped that there would be an opportunity for the Town Council and the local community to be involved in the review.

RECOMMEND: that the update be noted and Dorset County Council be asked that the Town Council be fully involved in the proposed review of on street pay and display.

20. **WEST BAY ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT UPDATE**

Members noted that West Dorset District Council had asked Dorset County Council to review the pinch point, with a view to allowing two way working at this location.

Bearing in mind the comments in the Public Forum, it was felt that the Town Council should support additional work, in respect of the following issues:

- that the priority turning at the shops to revert to the harbour.
- that a designated crossing be provided adjacent to St John's Church and the Harbour Stores.

Members also discussed the option, raised by the Head of Parking and Traffic, that a route could be introduced through West Bay Road Car Park, into Station Road Car Park, for vehicles. It was emphasised that this was not something that was being proposed at the current time and some concerns were expressed about whether this would be appropriate.

RECOMMEND: that it be noted that the pinch pint at West Bay was due to be removed and it be requested that the additional measures stated above, regarding the priority turning to the harbour and a crossing adjacent to St John's Church and Harbour Stores, also be considered at the same time.

21. **ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS**

The Town Surveyor updated members for information, on the following ongoing highway matters:-

- (a) Roundabouts: this matter continued to be discussed with the Highways Agency. The Highways Agency was also to discuss the drainage under the Crown roundabout with the Environment Agency.
- (b) Cycle Racks and Street Furniture: the cycle racks had been installed in East, West, South Street, and the bus station and would also be installed in West Bay.
- (c) Speed Limit Sea Road North: this was still being pursued with the County Council.
- (d) East Road Speed of HGV's and Manhole Covers: the Speed Indicator Device was in place and the results would be reported to the next meeting.
- (e) Gas Works: as part of the works at West Allington, it was proposed to remove the pinch point and after the works replace it with bollards that could be removed, in the event of a problem on the A35. Members discussed this and generally felt that the pinch point should not be put back and that a crossing be considered outside the Medical Centre.

RECOMMEND: that following the gas works in West Allington, the pinch point not be replaced and consideration be given to installing a crossing outside the Medical Centre.

- (f) 40mph Speed Limit – Sea Road North: this item was covered under (d) above).

22. NEW HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The following items had been received for consideration, since the last meeting:

- (a) Signage, including in West Bay

The Sub Committee discussed the proposed West Bay signage and generally felt that new signage was needed, although might need to look at what was included on the signage. Other signage, such as direction signage “to the sea” from Bridport, should also be looked at.

RESOLVED: that the signage be noted.

- (b) Meadowlands Parking

RESOLVED: that residents be contacted, to gauge support for additional waiting restrictions.

- (c) St Swithins Court

The additional non loading markings outside St Swithins Court were still being looked at.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted and further updates be received.

- (d) Fulbrooks Close

RESOLVED: that the proposal for additional parking and dropped kerbs be taken forward with Magna.

- (e) On street parking outside Bridport Primary School

This was to be discussed with the Head teacher and would be reported back.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

- (f) Morrisons’ traffic lights

It was noted that the phasing seemed to be variable, but was something that the County Council were to look at.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

- (g) East Street arrows

Dorset County Council was to look at putting in two more arrows on the road.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(h) St Andrews Road residents' parking

It was noted that this was proposed for one section of the road only, to be clarified by the Town Surveyor.

RECOMMEND: that this proposal be taken forward with Dorset County Council, subject to receiving no objections from affected residents.

(i) A Board enforcement policy

The new County Council policy was being trialled in Dorchester, before being rolled out.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(j) Palmers' entrance – West Bay Road

This was to be discussed with Dorset County Council.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(k) Dropped kerbs – Barrack Street/East Street junction

This would be added to the list of possible dropped kerbs to be taken forward, when the County Council was able to implement schemes.

RESOLVED: that the scheme be added to the list of dropped kerb sites.

(l) Barrack Street traffic sensors status

RESOLVED: that the possible listing of the sensors be investigated.

Other matters raised, not on the agenda, included:

- phasing of Town Hall lights affected by HGVs parking in front of the sensors. This would be monitored.
- Wellfields Drive – a letter had been received asking for restrictions, but it had been explained that, in view of the objections from other residents, the Sub Committee had decided not to progress this matter.
- Signage was needed for Provident Place and also the Magna houses behind the Texaco garage in East Road. This would be looked at with West Dorset District Council.

23. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no further communications

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 23 January 2014