

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors Dale Heenan (Chair), Mary Friend, Nick Martin, Teresa Page, Kevin Parry, James Robbins, Vera Tomlinson and Peter Watts

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Ballman.

7. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

8. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

9. Public Question Time

No Public Questions were asked.

10. Review of Resident's Requests

The Head of Highways and Transport submitted a report setting out an update on a range of highway, transport and maintenance issues that had been identified as priorities by the public during a recently undertaken consultation exercise. It was noted that , broadly speaking, the identified priorities fell within the following areas:

- The Council's Car Parking Strategy.
- The Council's bus strategy and the use of Bus Lanes.
- The state of un-adopted roads and footpaths.
- Road Safety.

The Head of Highways and Transport presented the report, commenting on each of the priority areas and the work being undertaken by the Council in respect these. Following his presentation of the report, the Head of Highways and Transport responded to members' questions and observations on the issues raised, including:

- The review of member and public requests for additional parking through the examination of the specific challenges encountered in different areas and the future management of available car parking spaces.
- The need to identify practical solutions to the longstanding car parking problems in Redhouse Way.,
 - Member consultations on this issue and the lack of consensus amongst residents in the locality of Redhouse Way on a preferred solution to parking problems.
- The reasons for the increased incidence of car parking on pavements and the possibility of using yellow line parking restrictions to reduce the problem. The

option for members to escalate car parking issues by referring these directly to the Head of Service, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place and/or the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills.

- The successful remedial action taken in Witchelstowe to alleviate car parking problems and whether these solutions might be applied elsewhere around the Borough.
- Opportunities for the Council, as a Planning and Highway Authority, to address increasing car parking problems through the application of local and national guidelines.
- The use of bus lanes and bus gates within local and strategic transport frameworks.
- The possibility of introducing lined car parking bays in areas with a high demand for car. The Committee noted that this might have both positive and negative affect on the number of cars that might park in any given area.
- The likely impact on car parking of new and proposed housing developments.
- The viability of self-funding of parking solutions by local communities.
 - Mechanisms to facilitate such discussions and the need for a clear and transparent appeal process should such schemes be permitted in the future. (It was noted that this might be carried forward through the automating request process curtly being undertaken).
- The powers available to the Council and Wiltshire Police in dealing with obstruction and inconsiderate parking on pavements.
- The possibility of using Public Space Protection Orders to deal with parking on pavements and grass verges.
- The need to simplify the process for the creation of Traffic Regulation Orders to resolve parking related issues. The need to review the Penzance Drive Bus Lane and bus gates for facilitate easier access for local residents. The future use of the Copse site park and ride car park.
 - in the absence of any imminent use of this facility, the re-marking of the road network to assist with better traffic flow.
- The hours of operation of bus lanes and whether these might be reviewed to allow non-authorised vehicle use from 16:30 hours to 09:30 hours. The Committee noted that opening bus lanes would not necessarily mean increased traffic flow as bottle necks tended to form around the capacity of key road junctions.
- The inclusion of Ward Councillors in on-going traffic and road related discussions regarding Bridgemead.
- Future traffic implications arising from the Wellington Street and Fleming Way developments.
- The current Transport Plan, and the possible establishment of a Task Group to consider its viability and future development.
- The financial liability of residents with regard to repairs and street lighting etc. on un-adopted roads.(It was emphasised that the Council did not require residents to pay for street lighting on such roads).
- The use of Indemnity Insurance by residents to off-set costs in the event that work was required to un-adopted roads
- The need for residents to understand the need for legal checks to identify potential financial risks for un-adopted roads.
- The possibility of using the Council's website to offer advice to residents regarding the potential liabilities associated with the purchase a property in a road that has not been adopted by the Council.

- The process for the adoption of roads by the Council and the need to consult Ward Councillors as part of that process (possibly through Ward Councillor/Officer site visits).
- The use of developer bonds under Section 220 of the Highways Act 1980 to meet the cost of necessary road improvements to meet adoption standards
- The lobbying of the Government for additional funding for the maintenance of roads within the Borough. It was noted that, by capitalising the cost of the borrowing necessary to bring the Borough's roads up to standard, would be in the region of £1.75 million.
- The enhancement of the Council's Incentive Fund submissions to maximise current Government Funding through the achievement of level three Incentive Fund targets that were achievable within the current financial constraints.
- Council traffic management and road safety schemes submitted to the Government for funding contributions.
- The funding of the provision of CCTV cameras on Thamesdown Drive and whether these offered value for money to the Council.
 - Alternatives to CCTV, such as cameras for capturing and identifying drivers going through red lights.
- The potential and limitations on the use dashcam footage in prosecutions by Wiltshire Police for Road Traffic offences.
- Safety Training for young people using motorbikes.

Resolved - (1) That Cabinet be requested to investigate the use of an anti-social parking PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) to tackle problem pavement and verge parking, lorries parking overnight in residential areas, and parking issues outside schools along with other reported concerns of members and residents.

(2) That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place, the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills and the Head of Highways and Transport be requested to investigate the publishing, on the Council's website, the standard costs of highways work such as pothole repairs, dropped kerbs, crossings, and ways to address verge parking and report back to this Committee.

(3) That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place be requested to investigate introducing a Community Highway scheme, where residents and organisations like Parishes can contribute to the cost of highways work in their area, with a pilot by April 2018 and report back to this Committee.

(4) Officers review the feasibility of planning conditions in requesting road construction standards and adoption timelines being provided before first occupation of housing developments.

(5) That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place and the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills be requested to write to Swindon's MPs, the Roads Minister and Chancellor highlighting how Swindon receives £4.8m from government for Highways, but the town requires £8m per year for road conditions to remain at standstill and a backlog of £25m already exists for roads to be in a "good" condition, and request talks of how Council and Government can fund the £1.75m required annually to finance a £25m investment.

(6) That it be noted that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place would investigate with officers and other relevant Cabinet Members, possible solutions to the car parking problems in Redhouse Way, Swindon and report back to this Committee.

(7) That it be noted that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place's would review the status of the Liden Drive Bus Gate following a change to local

planning conditions.

(8) That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place and the Head of Highways and Transport submit a report to the February meeting of this Committee on the Council's traffic management strategy in order that members might contribute to the review of the current Local Transport Plan for Swindon.

11. Winter Salt Routes

The Head of Highways and Transport reported orally setting out key issues relating to the Winter Maintenance Plan. A briefing note was tabled for Members' information.

The Head of Highways and Transport responded to questions relating to (a) current and proposed routes included in the road salting programme, (b) the use and maintenance of stocks in salting bins located across the Borough, and (c) salt stock levels.

Resolved – That the oral report in respect of the Winter Service Review be noted.

12. Transport Requirements for Development

The Head of Highways and Transport reported orally setting out key issues relating to transport requirements for development including guidance to developers, consultants, contractors, Parishes and the public in respect of new developments within the Borough. A briefing note was tabled for Members' information.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Place advised that a report on the issue of transport requirements for future developments would be considered by the Planning Committee on 10th October as part of the current consultation process and that, once the consultation process was completed, a Cabinet Member Advisory Group would meet to consider the consultation results.

Resolved – That the oral report in respect of transport requirements for development be noted.

13. Committee Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2017/18

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services setting out the Committee's proposed Work Programme for the Municipal Year, 2017/18.

Resolved – That, subject to the inclusion of a report to the February meeting of this Committee on the Council's traffic management strategy in order that members might contribute to the review of the current Local Transport Plan for Swindon (Minute 10(8) refers) the Committee's Work Programme for the Municipal Year, 2017/18 be approved.