

5th August 2020

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held virtually.

Minutes of the proceedings of the **PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** Extraordinary meeting held on this day as a Virtual Meeting, from 19:00 to 19:45

PRESENT

Chairman: **Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey**

Councillors: Cllr N Fox, Cllr K Malvern, Cllr A Tebboth, Cllr A Mather, Cllr T Lack, Cllr M Fumagalli, Cllr P Dennis & Cllr D Hinton

IN ATTENDANCE

Technical Officer (P&T Officer) – Miles Thorne

Jan Nowecki (Town Clerk)

Cllr S Gurney

Member of local press

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

None

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

None

QUESTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

None

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY HIGHWAY MEASURES IN TOWN CENTRE MEASURES IN ROSE STREET & DENMARK STREET (Agenda Item 4)

On the 29th July there was a meeting held with WBC to discuss the plans for the proposed measures for Rose Street and Denmark Street. Wokingham Town Councillors made the following comments.

Rose Street Proposal

- Remove interventions on Rose Street
- Installed in response to residents' concerns
- Limited pedestrian numbers using them and impact on short stay and blue badge parking.
- Propose removing with ongoing monitoring of the street

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



Comments

General support for this.

It was confirmed that Rose Street interventions will be removed on Sunday 9th.

There was a question regarding the need for a crossing on Rose Street for safety of residents. It was confirmed that WBC already has this work ready to be installed but at this time of Covid 19 this is not possible presently.

Denmark Street Proposal

- Temporarily extend footways on Denmark Street
- Increase space for social distancing whilst maintaining traffic flow between Market
- Place and car park entrance
- Integrated delivery zone for businesses at widest point
- Bolt down rubber kerbs to maximise space, increase crossing points and improve
- aesthetics
- Remove redundant bollards
- Temporarily repair road surface in pedestrian area

Comments

From the WBC Briefing to Councillors on 29th August:

There were concerns regarding width of access for wheelchairs and buggies. WBC officers confirmed that it would be wide enough for access.

With the lower kerb there is the possibility of trip hazard with different levels.

Concerns over businesses putting A boards out on the street. WBC officers expected that these should be restricted to one and that the placement should not obstruct pedestrians. It was noted as a concern that an A board policy does not exist.

Signage for cyclists should be easily visible

Bollards should be reinstated later once these emergency procedures are over.

A question was raised as to whether the footfall on Denmark Street was sufficiently high to warrant the interventions. WBC officers confirmed that it was the third highest in the Town.

It would be good to see this extra width for pedestrians kept after these emergency procedures with an extension from Market Place.

There were concerns that Lorries may park across pavement outside designated area. The design of bollards should prevent this.

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



The Committee reviewed the plans and were invited to debate the original comments as recorded above and add to them.

The Committee agreed to support both the Rose Street and Denmark Street proposals but would like comments from both the briefing and this meeting to be fed back to WBC for it to take into consideration in its final planning.

Comments:

There was concern regarding the safety of disabled residents, for example the possibility of trip hazards and access with wheelchairs. It was understood that representatives from Wokingham CLASP (Caring, Listening and Support Partnership) will be meeting with WBC and therefore their views are being sought. Wokingham Town Council would like to see the feedback from this meeting.

There is concern regarding the width of the loading area and whether it is sufficiently wide should two lorries be there at same time. It is understood that there will be a test carried out to assure that adequate room. Wokingham Town Council would like to see the results of this test.

There is still concern regarding trip hazards with the proposal and WTC would like all possible mitigation steps to be put in place. Particular emphasis is requested to ensure reflective strips or similar be added to alert pedestrians.

Although these are temporary measures it would be good to see some additions to make this look as aesthetically pleasing as possible. WTC would like consideration to be given to planters being added or similar.

ACTION: P&T OFFICER

CHAIRMANS SIGNATURE _____

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____

