

Informal meeting to discuss the call-in of decision - Basildon Town Centre Improvement Scheme – Appointment of a Principal Construction Contractor and commence construction works (FP/137/06/18), held at 3:00pm on Tuesday 10 July 2018 Committee Room 4, County Hall, Chelmsford

In attendance:

Members

Councillor Kevin Bentley	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure
Councillor Robert Mitchell	Deputy to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure
Councillor Lesley Wagland	Deputy to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure
Councillor Mike Mackrory	Chairman, Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Anthony Hedley	
Councillor Kerry Smith	

Officers

Daniel Baker	Senior Strategy Advisor
Beverly Gould	Principal Transportation and Infrastructure Planner
Richard Buttress	Member Enquiries Manager

Reasons stated for making the call-in (Councillor Smith)

- Does not want the tender for a contractor to take place until the consultation has concluded
- Does not agree with the plan to make Cherrydown East two-way traffic
- Additional traffic and noise pollution will negatively impact the residents living in the area
- Lack of enforcement in the evenings means cars parking in a way that make it difficult for both vehicles and pedestrians

Background and rationale for the proposed decision

- This scheme was planned before Councillor Bentley took over responsibility for the relevant portfolio and was born from the masterplan of 2012
- There is a need to change town centres across the County rapidly and the right infrastructure needs to be in place
- Encouraging people to cycle/walk more and the infrastructure needs to be that it will be faster to walk and cycle instead of using a vehicle
- It will take capacity away from the roads and will ensure the free flow of traffic

- It is normal to start the consultation process early to have a contractor in place as it can often take some time to complete
- There has been a call from local employers in the area to improve connectivity between the station and town centre
- This scheme will improve the east to west movements in the town centre
- The town centre modelling has been updated to build in capacity for the future local plan
- If no changes are made then vehicles will be queuing outside of the town trying to get in
- The current parking situation is making it difficult for the First Bus depot as vehicles are parking very near to their entrance
- The consultation will be online plus an event will take place at the bus station for those who cannot access the online version
- Officers are currently liaising with the taxi and bus forum to obtain their views
- The current Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) are valid until 6:00pm – they can be extended but there is cost involved. Emergency or temporary amendments do not require a consultation period and can be implemented immediately if necessary; however they only last for a maximum period of 18 months.

Conclusion and agreed actions:

- That the possible extension of Sunday parking restrictions are included in the consultation
- The public consultation includes a location that is easily accessible for the residents of Nethermayne to attend
- The amending of the TRO's are mentioned in the consultation to pre-empt possible questions from residents
- Councillor Smith will receive a detailed briefing from Officers on this scheme to improve understanding of what is entailed
- Councillor Smith to email Councillor Lesley Wagland detailing the current parking issues which will then be taken up with the South Essex Parking Partnership

Upon conclusion of this meeting, Councillor Smith informed he was withdrawing the call-in.