

ACCESS ADVISORY FORUM

8 JUNE 2015

PRESENT: Jim Sloan (Deputy Chairman in the Chair), Tim Clare, Sharon Carrigan, Peter Haley, Robin Pemberton and Mary Smith.

Councillors: Councillors Maureen Hunt and Sayonara Luxton.

Officers: Lynne Penn (Transport and Access Team Leader), Gordon Oliver (Principal Transport Policy Officer), Victoria Gibson (Principal Planning Officer), David Cook (Democratic Services) and Shilpa Manek (Clerk).

PART I

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Angela Clark, Daniel Gigg, Vikki Roberts and Nick Davies. .

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman of the Forum, Jim Sloan, welcomed the Forum to the meeting and proceeded to Chair the meeting in the absence of Angela Clark.

The Chairman advised the Forum that the meeting was to be audio recorded as this was the policy of RBWM for all public meetings.

The Chairman thanked the previous Councillors John Stretton and Kathy Newbound for all their hard work linked to the Forum and also thanked and congratulated Councillor Luxton on her re election and position as deputy Mayor. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Hunt and the new clerk Shilpa Manek to the Forum.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 16 March 2015 be approved subject to the following amendment on page vii, heading, Parking in Maidenhead (Grove Road), second paragraph should read:

“It was noted that the Chairman had contacted Councillor Hill regarding the parking difficulties. It was noted (instead of suggested) that a multi-level car park be installed like the one at Sainsbury’s. The Transport and Access Team Leader agreed to take this suggestion forward.”

MATTERS ARISING

STAFFERTON WAY LINK

Lynne Penn, Transport and Access Team Leader, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Stafferton Way Link and provided a map of the area.

The Forum was advised that the most recent Newsletter would be attached to the minutes of the meeting.

The Forum were updated on the four areas on the visuals as follows:

- Area C (Forlease/Oldfield/Bray Road Junction)
 - Many cables needed moving to accommodate a roundabout;
 - Completion date of mid October.

- Area D (Chantry Road/Oldfield Road)
 - This would be a carriage way, pedestrian access through southern railway arch and opening up the archway for two way traffic;
 - Completion date of early August.

- Area B (A4 Bridge Road/Oldfield Road)
 - Working towards putting in a roundabout;
 - Lascelles Road, currently shown on visuals as a one way junction would be a two way junction;
 - Completion date of late September.

- Area A (Moor Cut Bridge and approaches)
 - Bridge and roundabouts being put in;
 - Completion date of late September.

The Chairman inquired if all work was on schedule and the officer indicated that they were on schedule.

Councillor Hunt asked if there would be a pedestrian footpath in Area D, the officer confirmed that there would be one through the southern railway arch. The Chairman highlighted that the need for the footway be wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

RBWM COMPREHENSIVE EQUALITY POLICY

The Forum received an update from Lynne Penn. It was noted that an update had been sent to the Forum members and that officers would be happy to discuss any further comments.

MAIDENHEAD TOWN CENTRE

The Forum received an update from Victoria Gibson, Principal Planning Officer, as Daniel Gigg was unable to attend the meeting. Victoria Gibson updated the Forum on the following points:

- The Landings application was being considered at present;
- Main plans for the Premier Inn site were being considered at present.

At last AAF (14th March), the Chairman asked if the exhibition with regard to the York Road proposals would be displayed again. The Chairman has subsequently been in touch with the architect, David Cullingford, who had advised that they were going to resubmit a revised plan. Victoria Gibson advised that officers were working on a revised plan and would be another exhibition after finalising.

Peter Haley requested an update on the Nicholas Centre carpark. Peter Haley highlighted his concerns about the changes in vehicle access to the Shopmobility service entrance being blocked off. He was concerned that the entrance to the car park, which was currently one way becoming a two way entrance and exit and that this would not be wide enough.

Victoria Gibson explained that Daniel Gigg was the lead on the application and she would inform him of the concerns raised at the Forum. Also, Victoria suggested that - a formal response to the consultation be put in writing highlighting all the concerns. The chairman also moved that AAF formally support the concern about accessing the car-park.

The Chairman summed up the discussion with an action for Peter Haley to put forward an official representation via People to Places to the Nicholas Centre Car Park consultation to Daniel Gigg and to the Planning mailbox at RBWM.

ACTION: Peter Haley to put formal response to the Nicholas Centre Car Park Consultation via People to Places.

FIRST GREAT WESTERN – ACCESS TO MAIDENHEAD TRAIN STATION

Gordon Oliver, Principal Transport Policy Officer, provided the Forum with an update on the developments at Maidenhead Train Station. It was noted that the Royal Borough had £7 million allocated to the Maidenhead Train Station, that the borough had been working with Network Rail, Cross Rail and First Great Western. Gordon Oliver explained that a consultant had been commissioned to review the provision of a thousand additional car parking spaces and that a report was due back by the end of the current week. Also that the borough were working with First Great Western to install lift access to street level and also that a proposal for a multi storey car park was being prepared and would be ready by mid June. It was noted that it would be an expensive scheme but the increase in strategic importance would be highlighted in the proposal.

It was also noted that First Great Western were working on designs that would upgrade the southern access (Shoppenhangers Road) to the station and increase the number of gates from two to six. Gordon Oliver explained that £250,000 would be contributed from 'The Landings' application. The borough were also looking into upgrading the crossing between the station and the town and were considering an Oxford Circus style of crossing. Bids from consultants were currently being considered and a decision would be made shortly.

The finances were questioned by Councillor Luxton, who was inquiring where the funding was coming from. It was explained that a feasibility study was being carried out for Stafferton Way and also bidding was taking place for grant funding.

It was concluded that the estimated completion date would be 2019.

CARE ACT

This item was deferred as the officer was not present at Forum.

WINDSOR GREAT PARK ACCESSIBLE WC

It was noted that there had been a positive response from the Crown Estate and that the Chairman intended to visit the location. It was noted that the route was a designated Easy Access Route and the provision of an accessible wc would enhance the route further. An update report would be given at the next meeting.

PARKING IN MAIDENHEAD (GROVE ROAD)

The Forum received an update from Lynne Penn, Transport and Access Team Leader.

It was noted that many complaints had been received with respect to the parking in Grove Road. Lynne Penn informed the Forum that it had been reaffirmed with staff that they were only to use the parking for short periods, up to 2 hours, and to park at Hines Meadow car park otherwise. It was noted that staff would soon to be parking in the temporary car park opposite the Town Hall.

ST MARKS/COURTHOUSE ROAD JUNCTION

The Forum received an update from Lynne Penn, Transport and Access Team Leader

It was noted that there was a scheme some years ago that had not gone forward, however, some work to create residential parking and double yellow lines in the area was planned.

The officer suggested that the Forum should contact the Ward Councillors to resurrect the initial scheme.

The Chairman summed up that it was a busy and dangerous junction for pedestrians and motorists and a radical solution needed to be found. It was noted that it was essential to lobby local councillors to move matters forward.

Action: The Chairman to contact relevant Ward Councillors to discuss a scheme.

ITEMS:

CONSULTATIONS

The Forum noted that there were no particular consultations.

It was also noted that newsletters were available for all large applications in the area and that they had useful information. The newsletters could be found at www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prom.htm

It was noted that the Forum had discussed access to Alexander Gardens a few years ago and that had now been completed with a ramp up from Alexander Gardens to Barry Avenue, and a link across Barry Avenue onto the river frontage. It was hoped that this would be of particular benefit to users of the Windsor Shopmobility service. It was noted that Tim Clare had had some involvement in the development of this scheme.

Lynne Penn, apologised on behalf of Housing Solutions, who had not been able to attend the meeting. The Chairman expressed his disappointment at receiving a cancellation at such short notice.

Lynne Penn suggested that an update would be circulated by Alan Abrahamson on the Care Act. Councillor Luxton expressed disappointment that the officers had not attended or sent apologies. Another officer should have attended instead to update the Forum.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum noted the following dates for the next meetings of the Access Advisory Forum:

- 7 September 2015
- 7 December 2015
- 7 March 2016

MEETING

The meeting which began at 11.15am ended at 11.55pm.