

MAIDENHEAD TOWN FORUM

MONDAY, 17 JUNE 2019

PRESENT: Councillors John Baldwin, Gurpreet Bhangra (Vice-Chairman), Ross McWilliams, Joshua Reynolds, Gurch Singh (Chair) and Helen Taylor

Also in attendance: Councillors Carroll, Johnson, Haseler, Stimson and Baskerville.

Officers: Russell O'Keefe, Ben Smith, Gordon Oliver (Project Centre), Barbara Richardson (RBWM Property Co.), Nabihah Hassan-Farooq

WELCOME FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

Councillor Gurch Singh introduced himself as the Ward Member for St Marys and the Chairman of the Maidenhead Town Forum. He introduced Councillor Bhangra as the Vice Chair and introduced members to introduce themselves. All new forum members were welcomed to the first meeting of the municipal year.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Forum held at the last meeting of the Maidenhead Town Forum be approved.

TOWN CENTRE PARKING PROVISION & CAPACITY

Barbara Richardson, MD of RBWM Property Co gave a presentation on public parking provision. Members were informed that there were currently 3411 spaces as part of the current public parking provision. The Forum were told that as part of the regeneration that there were over 4000 new homes being built, community facilities, education, health & leisure and infrastructure being delivered. It was outlined that there were currently:

- 734 spaces at Broadway/Nicholsons
- 79 spaces at Station Approach
- 1328 spaces at Hines Meadow
- 248 spaces at Magnet/ St Clouds Way
- 570 spaces at Stafferton Way
- 200 spaces at Braywick
- 111 spaces removed with 150 replaced
- 82 spaces at Grove Road
- 59 spaces at West Street

It was confirmed that there was a total of 285 temporary spaces available and that a total of 870 additional permanent spaces would be created as part of the regeneration programme. This would give a total number of public parking spaces post 2022 of 4,281. Members were

reminded that private sector proposals were also being considered and that these would sit outside of the figures totalled above along with parking for private residential new build development. Members were informed that vicus way would be completed by July 2021 and that the works would begin by May 2020. The Forum were informed that the timetable for Broadway were subject to the wider masterplan and that practical completion was estimated for November 2022 and that handover for operation December 2022. Members were informed that there were strategic requirements in place for additional public parking provision. Operational requirements and considerations were taken into account for additional public parking provision. The Forum were told that overall, an addition 870 permanent public car parking spaces would become available for use by residents, retail, local business and Crossrail after regeneration.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Members asked a number of questions which included;

- Councillor Reynolds asked whether the additional car parking provision included staff parking and it was confirmed that it had been included.
- Councillor Singh queried whether consideration had been given to new residential sites and it was confirmed that these sites would incorporate their own parking provision.
- Councillor McWilliams asked whether basement parking at the St Clouds development had been confirmed and whether the cost of impact was considered. It was confirmed that basement parking was an expensive solution for parking and that on average, it cost the user double that of a surface car park it was outlined that the developer, Countryside had included a basement car park in their initial bid and this would be taken forward and be available for public parking provision. Councillor Baldwin queried how many spaces had been reserved for the new Forest Bridge School and it was confirmed that there were 70 spaces.
- Councillor McWilliams asked whether there were sufficient residential use spaces apportioned to the Landing site and whether this was adequate for resident use. It was confirmed that the original planning application for an entirely office/retail development submitted by the Landing developers and agents had outlined the need for 220 office spaces and that this agreement had now fallen away, when their new planning application had been submitted. . The site was now being developed for residential with a much smaller consideration of office use, and therefore their parking ratio was now much lower. Part of the site will be handed over for the use of temporary parking for 18-24 months. There was an agreement to provide The Landing with 50 spaces in the new Broadway car park on a lease at commercial rates once completed. .
- Councillor Bhangra queried whether any disabled parking had been included in the overall provision of car parking. It was confirmed that RBWM currently gave 2% to blue badge holders and that a commitment moving forward to achieve 5% parking for blue badge holders was in our brief and design requirements. . Moving forward it was noted that in addition to disabled parking that there would be infrastructure in place for electric vehicles.
- A supplementary question was posed by Councillor Bhangra in relation to consideration for the elderly and their parking needs. It was confirmed that ground floor bays in new multi-storey car parks would be available for blue badge holders, families with children there was no specific provision for the elderly but that ground floor parking would be available.
- Councillor Reynolds queried whether outsourcing of parking provision to local companies had been considered and whether the benefits of electric vehicles had been considered. It was confirmed that all parking provision was currently managed in house. Councillor Johnson who was in attendance confirmed that active considerations were being made in relation to electric vehicle users and that the motion would be considered at Full Council later this month.
- Councillor Baskerville (in attendance) queried whether there had been any consultation with Cross rail in their capacity as an external stakeholder. It was confirmed that there had been communications with Shanly Homes who were directly in communications with Cross rail. It was highlighted that Shanly Homes would also be considering providing car parking spaces near the station.

- Councillor McWilliams queried whether it would be possible to keep the existing Broadway car park open whilst regeneration works were taking place within the town centre. Members were informed that there would be no likely trade or passing footfall as residents would be aware that the shopping facilities were no longer available and that the majority of trade would be undertaken by Monday to Friday business users. Therefore the advantages and disadvantages of this would need to be considered.

At the conclusion of the presentation, members noted the contents of the presentation and requested that the presentation slides be available online. (presentation appended)

BELL STREET AND STATION FORECOURT WORKS

Ben Smith, Head of Commissioning- Communities gave a presentation on the above titled item. Members of the Forum were informed that the origins of the project were formed 2-3 years ago when a business case was presented to the Local Enterprise Partnership. It was outlined that there was a specific focus on health and wellbeing and that this would be carried through the enhancing of facilities and the regeneration of Maidenhead town centre. Members were told that there was a package of measures which would be undertaken to enhance pedestrian and cycle access and improve the public realm, accessibility and functionality of the station. It was outlined that the scheme was a key transport infrastructure project that would help to unlock investment and support the regeneration of Maidenhead town centre. The project would improve access and interchange at Maidenhead Station and would aim to improve links between the station and town centre. The scheme would also support the delivery of Crossrail and the Great Western Programme. Members were informed that delivery of the scheme would support the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Goals in direct relation to infrastructure and would be a key element of the Maidenhead Town Centre Area Action Plan. Forum Members were also told that the scheme would contribute significantly towards both the strategic and local transport objectives for the borough.

The Forum were told that the scheme was being carried out to improve connectivity between the station and the town centre. There would be enhancements for pedestrians and cyclists with an increase of 250 cycle spaces. Members were informed that there would be a better bus interchange, improved road safety, positive improvements to environmental factors such as noise and air quality. It was also outlined that there would be a focus on improving public space by providing short stay, drop off, taxi and disabled bays. As part of the presentation, Members were informed that at Broadway Junction there was an average of 415 right turn movements in the afternoon peak flow from Queen Street onto the A308. It was highlighted that over 75% of these movements would be removed from Queen Street resulting in improvements to safety and that this would mitigate road traffic accidents significantly. The Forum were told that residents would be communicated to via social media, and that there would be a live trial of the two way working system from the 1st July 2019.

ACTION- That findings and feedback of the two way working system of Broad be provided at the next maidenhead Town Forum on the 24th July 2019.

Members were informed that there had been high levels of engagement received from residents which had been positive, with the Facebook post reaching 13,094 views and receiving 234 comments. There has also been 159 survey responses received (as of 12th June 2019). Key themes that had emerged from the responses from residents included; pedestrian safety not being a current problem; introduction of the two way Broadway system would not mitigate any impact on Queen Street flow; concerns surrounding increased congestion across the road networks; impact to those who park beneath Star House; residents felt that the current system worked well and that any changes would increase peak journey times.

At the conclusion of the presentation, residents made a number of comments which included;

- How many road movements had been factored in to the modelling of the two way system? It was confirmed that modelling of the impact and frequency of movements had been undertaken by project entre, a joint service used by RBWM.
- Had the emergency services been approached in relation to the design of the pilot? It was confirmed that there had been continued efforts to engage with the emergency services and that there would be a statutory consultation at a later if it was decided that a traffic regulation order would be needed. It was highlighted that historically there had been little feedback received from the local fire authority with traffic management proposals.
- Would there be appropriate signage posted throughout the town outlining the new road layout? It was confirmed that concerns relating to the switching of lanes would be taken away and best addressed through the communications team.

Councillor Carroll who was in attendance, highlighted that he had received comments from residents whilst campaigning recently that there would be major impacts to the flow of traffic through the central road network around the town centre and that it was imperative to consult with emergency services to ensure emergency vehicle access.

Councillor Johnson (Lead Member for Transport) highlighted that there was a clear need for a consultation exercise to take place and that there would be a series of improvements to junctions within the town centre and that resident's recent responses would be looked at and taken on board.

Councillor Reynolds queried whether there had been any consideration to providing transit cycle routes outside of the town centre. It was noted that the Cycling Action Plan had been approved at Cabinet last year and that this was a ten year with commitments to providing new and improving existing cycle routes in and around the borough.

A local resident queried whether timed traffic lights and crossings had been considered as opposed to the changing of the road layout and stated that this would be a more cost effective and less disruptive change which could improve the flow of traffic around the Train Station. It was noted that the traffic modelling had taken into context the number of vehicles passing through the town centre and out of the town centre via the A4 and that feedback of the trial would highlight any possible solutions.

STREET FURNITURE

Ben Smith- Head of Commissioning; Communities gave a verbal report on the above titled item. It was noted that there was a design guide that was available in the town centre which included details of schemes which had been developed and designed in line with the Highways and Maintenance Plan. Members were told that there was a function available to members of the public where they could report number of issues of concern or for action via the RBWM website, via the "Report It" function and that this was being further developed in line with emerging issues raised by residents. The Forum were told that there had been a recent commitment by the Cabinet in relation to the reporting of potholes and that any potholes that were reported would be fixed within 24 hours and that this was an example of positive changes made via the new online reporting mechanism.

The Chair outlined that he had personally taken stock of the furniture across the town and had been out with officers to look at the condition of street furniture across the town centre. Councillor Bhangra highlighted that he had received feedback from elderly residents who felt that the furniture available in the town centre was uncomfortable.

A member of the public raised concerns with the walkway from St Mary's house to the Bad Godesburg underpass and that there should be a commitment to provide lighting along this walkway.

ACTION- That Ben Smith looks into whether the walkway from St Mary's to Bad Godesburg underpass is privately or publically owned and whether any improvements or communications via this concern had been raised previously.

Councillor Stimson (in attendance) highlighted that she had personally walked this route and had enquired and that the land was privately maintained.

ACTION- That Barbara Richardson liaise with local business owners whether any improvements including lighting could be looked at.

ITEM SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE FORUMS

The Chairman informed everyone present that future meetings would be a forum where ideas could be put forward and discussed as decided as to whether they were believed to be feasible.

Members suggested the following items for future meeting considerations:

- Recycling, Waste and Sustainability in Maidenhead
- Update on Regeneration projects in the town centre
- Creative Commercial ideas to retain trade throughout the regeneration works
- Invite Councillor Johnson

It was requested that item suggestions be emailed to nabihah.hassan-farooq@rbwm.gov.uk

DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of future forum meeting dates were noted as follows;

- 24th July 2019, 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall- Maidenhead
- 5th November 2019, 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall- Maidenhead
- 25th March 2020, 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall- Maidenhead

The meeting, which began at 6.30 pm, finished at 8.27 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....