

Time commenced 6.00 pm
Time finished 8.45pm

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 24 NOVEMBER 2008

Present: Councillors Poulter, Lowe, Harwood, Holmes, Repton and Banwait

In attendance: Councillors Care, Roberts, Richards, Willoughby and Williamson

47/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Batey and Dhindsa.

48/08 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

An additional paper from the Duffield Road Action Group (DRAG) was circulated to Members.

49/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

50/08 Duffield Road Bus Lane

The Commission had been requested by Councillors Grimadell, Hickson and Willoughby to consider the Cabinet's decision to confirm the bus lane on Duffield Road. Councillor Willoughby addressed the Commission and highlighted their concerns regarding the safety of the bus lane for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists, as well as the residents of Duffield Road.

Representatives from the Duffield Road Action Group addressed the Commission. They highlighted safety issues as being of major concern, and the visibility restrictions they felt had been caused by the bus lane. There were also concerns about the consultation which had taken place when introducing the bus lane, as it was felt that there were major gaps in the process, which needed to be addressed. The group felt strongly that it was only a matter of time before a major accident was had on the road.

Jonathon Guest, Director of Regeneration and Community, addressed the Commission. He reported that public transport was high on the national agenda and bus lanes played a crucial role in this. He explained the consultation process for the bus lane, which included street notices, public meetings and leaflet drops. It was reported that further improvements were planned for the bus lane, including dedicated cycle lanes and improvements to the street lighting.

Councillor Care, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, addressed the Commission. She reported that there had been a good response to the consultation and that she had also undertaken some door to door visits in the vicinity after it became operational which had given a positive response to the bus lane.

Ian Burton, a representative from Trent Barton, addressed the Commission. He reported that the bus lane had been a success from their point of view as punctuality had significantly improved, as had reliability. He also reported that the company took safety very seriously and as the Highways Authority had said that there was no deterioration in safety on the road, he felt this should be taken seriously.

The Commission asked questions to all the contributors regarding both safety and the consultation undertaken. After listening to all the evidence, the Commission discussed their response to the bus lane. They agreed that this was a very difficult issue as the bus lane obviously caused real concerns for some residents, while for others it was not an issue at all. The Commission first of all decided whether or not to recommend to the Cabinet to remove the bus lane. It was agreed that they had heard no evidence to suggest that there should not be a bus lane, and none of the participants had been anti bus lane. The Commission therefore decided that they would not recommend to the Cabinet that the bus lane should be removed. Councillor Holmes asked that his vote against this decision be recorded.

The Commission did agree that serious concerns about safety had been raised and these would need to be addressed by the Cabinet. They also had concerns as to whether or not the decision should have been treated as a key decision when it was taken.

Resolved that Council Cabinet be recommended to:

- 1. Increase the amount of speed checks and signage so as to reduce speeding**
- 2. Allow motorcycles to use the bus lane**
- 3. Consider provision of a north bound cycle path on the east side of Duffield Road**
- 4. a) Change the timing of household waste collection so that this occurs outside of peak hours and b) waste bins be collected from and returned to inside the curtilage of properties on the west side to avoid them being obstacles for pedestrians**
- 5. Address traffic flows at the Broadway island, by relocating the north bound bus stop or by introducing solid white lines adjacent to the current stop**
- 6. Note the Commission's report is predicated on the Cabinet not ruling out future widening of the A6 along the affected area, with the local Neighbourhood Board and Forum being the mechanisms for resident representations on the issue**

and

Resolved to take further advice at a subsequent meeting of the Commission on whether the 2 September decision should have been treated as a Key Decision.

MINUTES END