

**CABINET MEMBER FOR TOWN CENTRES, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY  
Monday, 9th January, 2012**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair) along with Councillors Dodson and Pickering.

**G77. MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 14th and 28th November, 2011.

Resolved:- That the content of the minutes be noted and they be signed as a correct record.

**[THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ORDER TO PROGRESS THE REQUEST REFERRED TO]**

**G78. CONFERENCE**

Consideration was given to attendance at the Association of Public Service Excellence – Full Association Meeting on the 20th January, 2012 in Edinburgh.

Resolved:- That the attendance of Councillor R. S. Russell at the Conference be approved.

**G79. OPENING OF OFFERS**

Resolved:- That the action of the Cabinet Member be noted in opening offers on 9th December, 2011 for Former Cemetery Lodge, Workshop and Garages, 22 Boston Castle Grove, Moorgate.

**G80. ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE 3 - DONCASTER ROAD, EAST DENE**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Tom Finnegan-Smith, Transportation and Highways Projects Group Manager, which set out details of a proposed accessibility improvement scheme on Doncaster Road, East Dene and the receipt of two objections from residents.

The third phase of the scheme aimed to improve sustainable access for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users to local facilities and services and to reduce the segregation between neighbouring communities.

The Phase 3 proposals included:-

- A zebra crossing between Cranworth Road and Oxford Street with a footway build out to narrow the kerb to kerb width of the carriageway. This required the removal of a refuge.
- A zebra crossing adjacent to East Dene Junior and Infant School. The footway would also be built out on the northern side of the road to narrow the width carriageway and a nearby bus stop would be moved to accommodate the zebra crossing.

- A pedestrian refuge near Vulcan House, Eastleigh and Bishopstoke Court residential care homes.
- Junction entry treatments to continue the footway across the accesses to Vulcan House, Eastleigh and Bishopstoke Court residential care homes.
- The continuation of the westbound uphill cycle lane from the end of the Phase 1 Accessibility Improvement scheme to the proposed zebra crossing at Oxford Street. This would include lining amendments to narrow the carriageway and encourage lower traffic speeds in both directions between the junction with Far Lane and the zebra crossing.
- A new eastbound uphill cycle lane from Selwood flats to the Oxford Street zebra crossing
- Bus stops within the extent of the scheme were proposed to be made accessible to those less mobile by the use of raised kerbs and identifiable to the visually impaired by the use of textured paving.
- Tactile crossing points on side roads and at existing refuges within the extents of the scheme.

Consultation and information for affected frontages and other properties was undertaken in November, 2011. This resulted in several comments on the scheme and the elements it contained. Two objections have been received, one for each of the proposed zebra crossings, from residents whose frontage would directly be affected and cited concerns about the specific location of these crossings and potential safety implications, potential for anti-social type behaviour, the loss of on-street parking capacity and their perceived negative impact on property values. The proposed zebra crossing located between Cranworth Road and Oxford Street would be sited in the only suitable space without affecting driveway accesses. This section of Doncaster Road was a regular crossing point for school children walking between Clifton Comprehensive School Campuses. The proposed zebra crossing outside East Dene Junior and Infant School would also be located where it would have greatest benefit. More pedestrians cross Doncaster Road in the section outside the school than in the section outside East Dene Social Club. If the crossing were to be placed further east or west of the proposed site it would likely be less well used as pedestrians would not walk out of their way to use it and may cross away from the controlled crossing.

On street parking would be prohibited in the vicinity of the zebra crossing by means of the controlled zone (denoted by zig zag road markings). This would remove the opportunity for residents (and school related traffic) to park on street. However, all affected properties have off street parking available. Both of the proposed zebra crossings were in front of multiple properties, but objections had only been received from one at each location. The scheme would affect those households with more than two or three vehicles who currently utilised the road to park their additional vehicles. However, the ultimate purpose for the highway was the free and safe movement of people either by motorised means or not. This scheme would deliver improved non-motorised accessibility and potentially have a traffic calming aspect through

the reduced carriageway widths and amended road layouts.

The Cabinet Member invited an objector, who was objecting to the zebra crossing outside numbers 76 and 78 Doncaster Road, to comment on the proposals. The objector did not feel that a zebra crossing in this location was the answer to the parking issues associated with a school and would only exacerbate an existing problem. An alternative solution was proposed in moving the crossing further east outside East Dene Social Club, which it was felt would better support patrons of the club and pupils of the school. Reference was also made to the narrowing of the kerblines to accommodate the installation of the zebra crossing and the impact this may have on gaining access to the resident's drive/home.

The Transportation and Highways Projects Group Manager provided further information on the "no stopping" restrictions and the justification for this zebra crossing location.

Discussion ensued on the timescales for implementation, the possibility of relocating the zebra crossing, the subject of the objection, the surveys that have been undertaken and the need to ensure that access was not precluded for the residents of Nos. 76 and 78.

Resolved:- (1) That the two objections, one for each proposed zebra crossing, be not acceded to and the objectors be informed of the decision.

(2) That implementation of the scheme, as shown on drawing number 126/17/TT115—REVB, commence in the 2011/2012 financial year.

(3) That the scheme be joint funded from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2011/12 and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund grant 2011/12.

(4) That a further report on progress be submitted to the Cabinet Member in six months time following implementation of the scheme.

#### **G81. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved, that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act (as amended March, 2006 (information relates to finance and business affairs)).

#### **G82. TOWN CENTRE BUSINESS VITALITY GRANT APPLICATION**

Consideration was given to a report presented by Bernadette Rushton, Retail Investment Manager, which related to an application under the Town Centre Business Vitality Scheme for the expansion of an existing business located in All Saints' Square into additional occupation of an adjacent vacant unit.

Details of the application and reason for the request were provided in detail at the meeting.

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Resolved:- (1) That a rental contribution to provide 50% of annual rent (ex VAT) in Year 1 and 25% of annual rent (ex VAT) in Year 2 be approved, the grant to be paid quarterly in arrears on submission by the applicant of proof of payment of rent.

(2) That a capital improvement grant, to cover 75% of total cost of eligible works, be approved.

(3) That any grant offer be subject to the Business Vitality Grants Scheme's standard terms and conditions and the additional terms as detailed in the submitted report.