

Rayleigh Traffic Study Sub-Committee – 30 May 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Rayleigh Traffic Study Sub-Committee** held on **30 May 2003** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs M J Webster (Chairman)

Cllr J E Grey

Cllr A J Humphries

Cllr C A Hungate

Cllr T Livings

Cllr R A Oatham

Cllr D A Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn, J M Pullen

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton

Head of Planning Services

M Martin

Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT

K Bristow

District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services

6 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2003 were agreed as a true record, subject to it being noted that the titles of the County Officers present had been transposed.

7 REVIEW OF AREAS OF CONCERN/ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Members noted that a convenient date had not been found when the traffic study presentation could be offered to interested parties. This had been requested by Members at the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The Head of Planning Services advised Members they should consider carefully whether such a presentation would raise expectations beyond that which could be delivered, bearing in mind the financial constraints that would exist.

Members noted that:

- whilst the County Council now owned the traffic study, they would not have the in-house capabilities to make a presentation.
- the Head of Planning Services would be prepared to lead such a presentation.
- Councillor R Bass, the County's Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation had agreed to visit the Town Centre in order to familiarise himself with it.

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Members agreed that the critical areas of concern within the town centre were:-

- Websters Way and the traffic movements associated with the car park
- exit from Church Street/extended pavement area in High Street

However, it was noted that the Traffic Study had concluded that converting Websters Way back to one way traffic would make the overall traffic situation significantly worse.

Members expressed disappointment that no study had been made of the origin and destination of vehicles. County Officers agreed they could supply details of the costs involved, should any additional studies be required.

Members' attention was drawn to a letter which had been published in the Evening Echo in response to the article published on the traffic system in Rayleigh. This concluded that many people considered the centre of Rayleigh to be more pedestrian friendly since the introduction of one way traffic through the High Street.

The Chairman reported that she was also in receipt of letters from the public in response to the article and that these would be made available to Members of the Sub-Committee.

Members agreed with Officers that the best initial course of action would be to write to interested parties, including the emergency services, taxi owners/proprietors and the Chamber of Trade, inviting them to give their views on the current traffic situation within the Rayleigh High Street area. The Sub-Committee could meet again to consider the responses received under the heading 'The Way Forward'. If necessary, an interim report could be submitted to Council requesting that more time be granted to the Sub-Committee to carry out its remit.

Members noted that it was unlikely that the implementation date of October 2004 for decriminalised parking could be brought forward. However, the Officer had now been appointed who would be reviewing all the parking options. This could include investigating the possibilities around introducing a parking permit system.

8 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the next meeting of the Sub-Committee would be held on Friday 27 June 2003, commencing at 10 am in the Civic Suite, Rayleigh.

The meeting commenced at 10 am and closed at 12 noon.

Chairman

Date