

## **TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on Wednesday, 20 September 2017 at 10am at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Steve Hastings (in the Chair)  
Paul Godier  
Lee Hunt

**13. Apologies for Absence. (AI 1)**  
Councillor Ian Lyon sent his apologies.

**14. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)**  
No interests were declared.

**15. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. (AI 3)**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2017 be agreed as a correct record.**

**16. Review of general parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies. (AI 4)**  
Karen Nash, Portsmouth Pensioners included the following points in her deputation:

- The survey can be advertised in their magazine.
- Some areas of London have similar parking issues as Portsmouth. In the E2 zone temporary trade residential parking permits are given to residents for their contractors, there is free parking from Saturday evening to Monday morning and free bus passes are given to under 16s and pensioners. There is also a good mobile phone app which keeps residents informed on traffic issues.
- It is very difficult to park in Devonshire Avenue.

Steve Bonner, Portsmouth Pensioners included the following points in his deputation:

- He reiterated the offer to advertise the survey in their magazine which has a readership of 24,000.
- Commercial vehicles parking in residential areas is a concern.
- Students park in residential roads and leave them there for long periods.
- It might be useful to use B&Q and schools' car parks in the evenings.
- He asked the panel not to let the enormity of the problem deter it from attempting to deal with the problem.
- The withdrawal of free podiatry care has led to a decrease in people walking.

Adrian Reed included the following points in his deputation:

- There is no easy solution to the issue of parking because measures taken in one area impact other areas. It is important to explore the interconnection and take a holistic approach.
- The main cause of the problem is increasing car ownership.
- It is important to look at the vision for the city, the objectives and how these would be measured, the strategy and tactics.
- To support these objectives it would be necessary to increase viable alternatives; encourage employers to let staff work from home and build city infrastructure for tomorrow.

In response to questions from the panel, Pam Turton explained that:

The possibility of increasing off street parking had been explored with big shops and schools but there had been a degree of reluctance to participate.

Historically people in the North of the city didn't own as many cars. Now this area has some of the highest growth in car ownership.

Work is continuing with all council contractors particularly Colas. The first item on the agenda at the first meeting of the new PFI Manager was to address Colas vans parking on residential streets. A number of initiatives are being trialled to facilitate work in the city.

The telephone number for reporting urgent traffic management issues between 7am and 10pm could be more widely publicised.

Historically Portsmouth was very self-contained and people lived and worked here. This is no longer the case. People from Fareham East tend to work in Portsmouth and those from Fareham West in Southampton.

Southampton, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth local authorities, the Department of Transport, bus companies and train companies are all working together to develop infrastructure for transport solutions.<sup>1</sup> Work is also underway on the South East Hampshire Bus Rapid Transport solution.

The council is promoting quieter, safer cycling routes. Over the last two years, the council has provided many initiatives to encourage cycling including helping people to buy and maintain their bicycles.

Members made the following observations:

It is important to lead by example, encourage more people to walk and reduce car ownership.

With 18,000 possible new homes being built in the city, car ownership is likely to increase significantly.

In response to concern raised about the number of houses of multiple occupation and students, it was explained that the Planning Committee must have strong grounds for refusing an application for houses of multiple

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<sup>1</sup> <https://solentlep.org.uk/what-we-do/news/businesses-on-board-with-plans-for-solent-metro/>

occupation either for new ones or to increase the number of tenants. Parking is not a consideration.

At a previous meeting, representatives from Colas and Mountjoy had explained that they had taken measures to reduce the number of their vehicles that are parked on residential streets overnight to a minimum.

A recent residents' survey of parking carried out by the Liberal Democrats had an overwhelming response which shows that it is a significant concern.

There are four new loading bays for contractors only in Charles Dickens ward.

It is important not to demonise drivers who may have to park commercial vehicles on residential roads because it is the family's only transport. Everyone wants traders to come to our homes quickly when required.

More commercial vehicles parking could be provided with perhaps a council pool car taking groups on to their homes. There is one currently in Nancy Road and Curtain Car Park was previously used for this.

The My Portsmouth mobile phone app can be used to report traffic violations as well as other concerns.

Free seafront parking for people with residential parking permits could be offered.

A significant number of people drive into the city for work.

Some residents do not want a city-wide parking zone. It is important to listen to everyone.

The ongoing problems of vehicles parked for weeks at a time, those abandoned and the sale of cars on residential streets must be addressed.

Non-car owners could receive residents parking permits to give to their visitors.

Cycling and walking should be encouraged. It would be useful to investigate how often these modes of transport are used and for what purpose.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The three top suggestions given by the focus group participants would inform the questions for the questionnaire. These are:**
  - **Move commercial vehicles from residential roads to other sites in the city.**
  - **Limit the number of HMOs - better liaison with planning and parking.**
  - **Make resident parking zones citywide.**
- 2. More information on the research carried out into evening off-street parking would be brought to a future meeting.**

The meeting concluded at 11.15 am.

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Councillor Steve Hastings  
Chair