

Petition - Palmerston Road (summary)

- Overview

Lead petitioner: Mrs Linda Symes
Received: 23 September 2013
Confirmed signatories: 1181
Officer response: Pam Turton on 30 September 2013 (HoS Simon Moon)
Council meeting: 15 October 2013
Cabinet Report: 21 Jan 2014

<http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s2641/r3%20Palmerston%20Rd.pdf>

Decisions: (Item 3)

<http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/g2438/Decisions%2021st-Jan-2014%2012.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2>

- Statement

"The Palmerston Road pedestrianisation was implemented with little consultation and has had a disastrous effect on the resident and visitor amenities.

We the undersigned call on Portsmouth city Council to suspend the scheme until extensive consultation is carried out to determine how to manage the traffic flow to the area in the best interests of those who live and work here."

- Officer response

Dear Ms Symes

In June 2013, Portsmouth City Council (PCC) undertook consultation to gather opinion from local residents, visitors, stakeholders and any other interested parties on proposals for Osborne Road / Palmerston Road. The consultation included the following elements:

- Drop-in consultation event at St Jude's Church;
- Mobile exhibition in Palmerston Road precinct;
- Leaflet outlining the proposals with attached feedback form (available online, at consultation events, hand delivered to homes in the local area, and at Southsea Library); and
- A dedicated consultation page on PCCs website.

The consultation was open for interested parties to provide their feedback until 31st July 2013.

The consultation specifically asked for respondents' opinion on the future of the pedestrianised area of Palmerston Road and asked to state a preference between:

- Leaving the scheme as it is and retaining access for buses (and access for loading between 6am and 11am);

- Excluding buses in the pedestrian area with CCTV/bollards placed to prevent access (although access for loading would be permitted between 6am and 11am); or
- Extending the pedestrianised area to Auckland Road and exclude use by buses with CCTV/bollards placed to prevent access (although access for loading would be permitted between 6am and 11am).

A total of 6,000 feedback forms were distributed during the consultation period. Over 500 interested parties submitted feedback forms (either online or by hard copy) answering the question about Palmerston Road. The majority of respondents to the consultation were resident around Southsea.

The results of the consultation will be discussed with local Councillors on 10th October 2013. The receipt of this petition will be reported to this meeting.

It is planned that a detailed design of the Osborne Road scheme will be presented to a meeting of Traffic and Transportation at its meeting on 8th November 2013.

Pam Turton

Assistant Head of Service, Transport and Environment

- Decisions of the Cabinet Meeting 21 Jan 2014

Item 3: Palmerston Road

1. Members noted the extensive consultation that has been undertaken regarding the Southsea Retail area, and the analysis of the current operation of the Palmerston Road scheme;
2. Members noted the action required to facilitate full pedestrianisation of Palmerston Road with a physical barrier across the road at 11am each morning;
3. That a taskforce is created to address the concerns of anti-social behaviour in Palmerston Road to be led by Councillor Vernon Jackson, and include representation from the following areas: Police, Legal, Licensing, Ward Councillors, PubWatch, the City Centre Manager, Environmental Health, Chair of Southsea Traders, Street Pastors, and a representative from each of the following residential blocks: Villiers Court, Palm Court, Queens Keep and Hamilton House; and the Chair of the Southsea restaurateurs;
4. Members noted the advice from the City Centre Manager that pedestrianisation will enable the full benefits to be realised, improving the economy within Southsea. It is also noted that the pedestrianised area will enable the increased frequency of daytime, family-orientated outdoor markets (for a range of purposes).
5. Members instructed officers responsible for environmental health, licensing and community safety to be more proactive in dealing with issues of noise and antisocial behaviour;

6. Following representations from both the public and retailers, planters in Palmerston Road are retained as per the majority of the responses received, and there will be further dialogue regarding improvement before any installation of planters in Osborne Road;
7. Relevant officers ensure that re-planting is carried out as a priority with suitable foliage;
8. The Cabinet recognised that the licensing laws relating to the sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment are deemed to be a nonexecutive function and therefore no decision making powers are available to it. However, the Cabinet strongly recommends to the Licensing Committee that in those cases where a premises licence allowing late night drinking is subject to review under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, serious consideration should be given to the modification of the licence so as to include a requirement that those individual premises should install a suitable system for monitoring persons entering the premises (e.g., ScanNet).
9. The Cabinet acknowledged that in making this recommendation the Licensing Authority will continue to consider such applications on individual merit and will only exercise such powers where appropriate to do so.
10. The Cabinet also recognised and is pleased to note that the majority of late night premises who primarily sell alcohol and provide regulated entertainment in Palmerston Road support the use of such systems as ScanNet and in particular it notes that following discussions with the Police the Slug and Lettuce, Lord Palmerston and Drift Bar are already using these systems and are commended for doing so;
11. That consultation is undertaken to improve and increase short-term parking provision in the vicinity of the southern end of Palmerston Road to support local traders.