

Henleaze Forum
Thursday 16 May 2013

Present:

Councillors: Glenise Morgan, Clare Champion-Smith
NP Reps: Simon Tomlinson, Val Bishop, Maggie Clarke
Officers: Gary Brentnall, Terry Bullock, Mark Sperduty
Police: PCSO Paula Perry
Plus 50 members of the public

An election for the vacant Henleaze NP rep position was held. Maggie Clarke was elected and will stand for 2 years.

Police update: Recent problems with car breaking and cycle thefts. The police have a burglary kit available for residents. This provides help with making the home safer. There have been few burglaries but several shop break-ins but no distraction burglaries.

Recent speed-watch work has shown that approximately 1 in 150 vehicles clocked was exceeding the speed limit. In response to a question, the police said they would be happy to help residents set up Neighbourhood watch projects.

Resident Parking Schemes: Cllr Champion-Smith expressed her concern that the recent press release got the boundaries wrong.

Officers informed the meeting that the consultation would be on the BCC website for 3 weeks. This is the best opportunity for residents to have their say. The timescales are short. This is because the Mayor has an ambitious programme. He wants the whole programme rolled-out in 18 months. The statutory consultation will begin in August. This will not be for fundamental changes to the scheme but for fine tuning.

Terry Bullock, BCC Highways Manager said the area is most affected by commuter parking. There will be a review after 6 months of the scheme's implementation. Again, this is more about fine-tuning.

The issue of spill-over was discussed. When each RPS is introduced, it's the areas just outside that are adversely affected. This should eventually stop, the further out the schemes go.

It is very clear that people currently suffering from the south Cotham RPS want the scheme a.s.a.p. There are logical boundaries, not based

on ward boundaries for the schemes.

RPSs are part of a wider programme to improve pollution and congestion. Other methods include better public transport, and park and rides.

Residents' responses were as follows: The timescales are ludicrous. Not all problems in Bristol are the same. Just because Kingsdown had a specific problem, it doesn't mean Westbury Park has the same problem. Is there no subtlety? The problems are based on bus routes. People park and catch buses in. Residents are being expected to pay for problems caused by commuters. This is unfair. Shops will suffer. They rely on passing trade. No recognition of this in the scheme. It is not varied to suit circumstances. BCC states it wants to hold meetings with groups. This isn't enough. There needs to be a more comprehensive approach. Bad consultation causes delays. Three weeks of consultation isn't good enough. National standard states 12 weeks.

Questions and answers:

Q. Please can we destroy the myth that all areas are alike? WP is not the same as Kingsdown. You will be putting traders in Coldharbour Rd at a competitive disadvantage. **A.** We want to work with traders on this. We will review after 6 months.

Q. Could boundaries be based on bus routes? This would make more sense. **A.** It's a valid point but we are consulting on the proposed scheme. Consultation is not a yes/no vote. Not everyone will be taking buses in to the centre

Q. It's often much harder to park at 10pm than 10am. **A.** The scheme is aimed at commuters not residents parking in their own areas

Q. Any data on lost parking spaces? **A.** There may be some lost parking near corners where junctions need to be protected.

Q. You're vague about public transport being cheaper. How come, as it is privately owned? **A.** Can't promise this as a carrot. But it will help to reduce pollution.

Do we have a problem here? What do we need a solution to? We are planning for what problems will occur.

Q. Has the Filton development been considered? A. We have no control over that. This scheme will reduce people using cars. Will improve behaviour – car sharing, cycling etc.

Cllr Glenise Morgan ended this discussion by stating that they will try to push for an extended consultation.

Whiteladies Road traffic Review. Expected in the Autumn as normal traffic conditions will have returned by then.

20MPH roll-out. Why have it? Safety, health reasons, better community relations. The two pilots have been successful. The default is 20mph unless a strong reason is given. We are looking at A, B and C roads. For example, Henleaze Road could stay 30mph but might be 20mph in parts (based on criteria for this). The BCC team will consider helping speed watch schemes to form and grow. A programme of formal consultation will be held in libraries in coming weeks.

As cars leave the centre of the city the expectation is that the number of 30mph roads will increase.

Comments included: We need to keep traffic on main roads and not create rat runs. Need to think about differential speeds to make sure this happens. Stating that 20mph will encourage more children to walk to school and therefore tackle childhood obesity is too simplistic. It is much more complicated than that due to school catchment areas etc. Officers pointed out that the evidence suggests that behaviour does change.

Q What about it operating for certain hours only? A. No, this is too complicated.

Q. What about signage for this? A. There are rules for the amount of signage. BCC will follow these rules.

Q. Motorcycles are unstable at 20mph, what about them? A. No evidence to say that motorcycles are unstable at 20mph.

Q. What is the cost? A. £2.4m over 3 years.

Q. What about enforcement? The 20mph will not be enforced by the police, although they will do hotspot work. Evidence suggests that behaviour does change.

Q. How many accidents have to happen before a road becomes 20mph? This is not the basis of why 20mph is introduced. It is more about prevention.

Q Whiteladies Road and Gloucester Road. What speed will they be? A. 20mph

St Ursula's School. A potential planning application may be submitted with a view to building a new school on the site. Nothing formally received as yet.

Park updates. Old Quarry Park. We are looking at options and getting them costed. Fallodon Way Park has also been subject to detailed consultation and designs will be scored soon. They will then be put to a final consultation. Hope to start the build in June.

Issues:

1. Lorries making deliveries to Co-op on Henleaze Road are often parking opposite the store and reversing without a banksman. This is dangerous.

2. Can the waste (mainly cardboard) be cleared from the corner of the Co-op.

Any Other Business

Festival of Age being held on Monday 1 July at the Waterford Hall, Henleaze URC. All welcome.

Stoke Lodge Adult Learning Centre is at risk of closure. All those concerned should let their views be known to the council

Next Henleaze Forum: 7pm, Thursday 24 October 2013. Henleaze Library