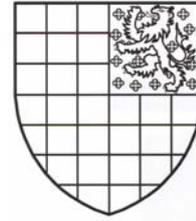


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to address traffic-related issues in Lewes held on **Wednesday 26th August 2009**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **11:00am**.

PRESENT Cllrs L F Li; M Milner (*Chairman*); S Murray; J Sinclair;

Attending: S Brigden (Town Clerk)

TIWP2009/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Barker (working); Black (medical operation); Borowski (ill-health); Chartier (holiday); Dean (Mayoral engagement); and O'Keeffe (working).

TIWP2009/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none

TIWP2009/03 ELECTION of CHAIRMAN Cllr Milner was confirmed as Chairman

TIWP2009/04 MINUTES The minutes of the meeting 29th April 2009 were signed as an accurate record.

TIWP2009/05 PUBLIC QUESTIONS There were none. (No press or public were present.)

TIWP2009/06 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Following the work of previous meetings, key points discussed were:

- ⊕ *Lewes Controlled Parking Zone scheme* – The County Council's Lead Member for Transport, and the Director of Transport & Environment, had been invited to the meeting but were unable to attend. Cllr Lock was otherwise engaged, and Mr Clubb was on holiday. Members proposed that discussion on this subject be deferred to a meeting when these gentlemen could attend, and that they be asked to nominate dates when a meeting might be arranged at their convenience.
- ⊕ *Pedestrian crossings* – Further to earlier decisions, the sites at which the Council might fund pedestrian crossings were confirmed as: Mountfield Rd (ranked 20 in ESCC's 2008 prioritized list); and two sites in Church Lane, Malling (ranked 23 & 24). It was understood that Mountfield Road may be affected by other proposed traffic engineering works in the vicinity, and it was **agreed** that ESCC should be asked to clarify this situation before a final decision was reached. It was further **agreed** that Council should be asked to commit a similar amount in the 2010/11 budget for the installation at the next-highest ranked location.
- ⊕ *20mph limit* – These long-standing proposals were still in abeyance pending anticipated regulatory changes. ESCC's Lead Member for Transport & Environment had been scheduled to discuss implementation of a pilot scheme in central Lewes at a meeting of Lead Members during the Summer. This would now be considered towards the end of the year, due to the recent publication of a new National Road Safety Strategy, and the anticipated release, in the early Autumn, of an interim study by the Department for Transport of the recently-introduced scheme in Portsmouth.
- ⊕ *Parking enforcement in vicinity of Eastgate* – Members discussed various recent anecdotes regarding the enforcement of parking controls in the area of Eastgate. This was privately-owned land, and enforcement was perceived to be extremely aggressive; involving wheel-clamping and high release fees

(around £150). Cllr Milner explained that he had held discussions with representatives of the landowner (Cheval Properties) and gained some insight into their viewpoint. Whilst the contractors employed to monitor the site were considered “heavy-handed”, parking controls were acknowledged as necessary to address the landowner’s responsibilities to their legitimate tenants. Signage had recently been improved, although there remained a general perception that the area is part of the public road network, which could lead motorists to take risks in the hope that they will avoid penalty or, at worst, have recourse to a public authority complaints scheme. The charges levied for release of vehicles were understood to be competitive in the context of the commercial contract for such services, although there remained some disquiet at the perceived tactics of the enforcement teams. This was acknowledged to be a widespread problem, and adherence to the industry’s Code of Practice was understood to be voluntary. Cllr Milner had consulted with Norman Baker MP who was working in Parliament to have the legal framework reviewed.

TIWP2009/07

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It was agreed that Council should be asked to commit funds in the 2010/11 budget for the installation of at least one further pedestrian crossing at the next-highest ranked location.

The meeting closed at 11:40am

Signed:

Date: