

26. CATHEDRAL SQUARE - MAINTENANCE ISSUES

The Committee considered a verbal report from the Subcommittee, consisting of the Chairman and Councillors Evans and Wright, which had been appointed to decide on the numbers and locations of planters in the Square following the special meeting of the Committee on 18 October 2000.

The Committee had taken the opportunity visit the Square prior to the meeting when a number of maintenance issues had been noticed as requiring attention and these were discussed with the City Streets Manager and Parking Operations Manager.

The City Streets Manager has since submitted the following report on the specific issues raised at the meeting and during the visit:

Rubbish Bins

The rubbish bins in the Square are emptied at least twice daily. On many days a third collection round is undertaken. As designed the door locks were difficult to use. Different locks have been trialed and a new set has been ordered and will be installed as soon as they arrive. In the meantime the cleaning contractor has been given clear instructions to make sure the doors are secure and if necessary wedged shut after emptying.

Pavers

The traffic lights at the northern end of the Square were removed early in November and there is still some finishing work required to replace pavers that were cut for the posts. The maintenance contractor has been asked to attend to this work.

We are now intending to provide a shoe around the base of all lights and signposts to provide a neater finish as it is difficult to cut the pavers to provide a neat fit.

Damaged pavers in the pedestrian areas are replaced progressively once they are identified. Those in the carriageway may not be replaced as rapidly due to engineering constraints. Arrangements are being formalised with the cleaning contractor for him to take responsibility for reporting damaged pavers.

The pavers are cleaned weekly except for the food stall area which is cleaned twice a week.

Bollards

Stainless Steel bollards are used to define the P5 parking areas to the south and west of Warners building. They are frequently bent by vehicles and are straightened regularly to the extent that some are now breaking from metal fatigue. They were designed for pedestrian areas to define where cars could park, not to act as stoppers.

The intention has been to replace them with the larger stainless steel bollards that are more obvious and are spring loaded. Some will be replaced immediately but the majority are to be replaced in conjunction with the installation of the second set of planters in March 2001. There will also need to be some changes to the bollard layout to make the area safer for pedestrians. The details of this work are to be reported to the City Services Committee in February.

There are 40 bollards to replace in the two P5 zones at an estimated cost of \$48,000. The bollards have been ordered and will be available progressively from 18 December 2000.

Meter Cover Broken

This is in fact a cover to a power point for a stall holder. It was installed independently of the main Stage 4 works and is non standard. We now have details of the cover type so it can be quickly replaced if broken again. If possible it will be replaced with a stronger metal cover.

Car Parking

As requested by the City Services Committee there will be an increased presence of parking officers in the Square including at the weekend, although it must be noted that policing in recent weeks has been very active and perceptions are that the problem remains significant.

Parking around the Cathedral is on Cathedral land and the Council does not control it. The area in front of the Cathedral is usually only used on Sundays although recently it has been used during the week by contractors working on the columbarium and chalice.

The Police have approval to park two cars adjacent to the police kiosk.

As an aid to enforcement and to improve driver awareness additional no parking signs on standard 50mm tubular posts will be placed in the BNZ area. Similar signs will be placed to the south of Warners outside the Press building.

In the area to the west of Warners and outside the Camelot Hotel it is more difficult to control parking due to the insistence of the Camelot Hotel that they need to take buses right to their front door. The layout here may need to be completely redesigned to better accommodate tour buses and should be treated as a Stage 5 item. Changes with the refurbishment of Warners and the Savoy site will also need to be considered. In the interim some additional signage will be installed to better define the no parking and P5 areas.

Chalice

The chalice will not now be installed until late March so the area around the chalice foundation is to be repaved and a cover placed over the reinforcing steel. This will be a variation to the chalice foundation contract.

Chess Set

The chess pieces are being made and the seat/storage unit that was previously in the Square is being repainted for use. This is a temporary measure. New seating is proposed and it is then intended to shift the older seating to the chessboard at the Oxford Terrace/Cashel Street chessboard. The cost of the chess pieces is \$6,000 with half of this cost for making the moulds which the Council will own. A second set of pieces for the Oxford Terrace board should only cost \$3,000. The new seating for around the Square chess board would be a Stage 5 item.

Inner City Maintenance Co-ordinator

Mr Gavin Cross has been appointed to this position and he commenced work on 1 November 2000. His role is to co-ordinate maintenance activities in the central city with a particular emphasis on the pedestrian areas. As requested by the City Services Committee his initial focus will be on the Square.

Revised Maintenance Standards

Many of the changes outlined above require a higher standard of maintenance than is currently provided. This will be reflected in next year's Annual Plan with additional committed costs of \$170,000 for maintenance and cleaning of amenity areas throughout the city already identified.