

1. BUS STOP LAYOVER LATIMER SQUARE - REPORT ON CONSULTATION

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the recommendations of the Subcommittee regarding the proposal for a bus layover in Latimer Square and to provide feedback on the public consultation regarding this.

BACKGROUND

The Council resolved at its meeting on 27 September 2001 *“that consultation be undertaken with local residents and businesses in the Latimer Square and Rolleston Avenue/Hereford Street areas on the bus stop layovers and a report be submitted to the special Council meeting on 9 October 2001”*.

The Committee considered a report from Jude Pani, Community Advocate, Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board, at the commencement of the meeting on the public consultation undertaken on 4 October 2001 and in addition speaking rights were granted to four residents and property owners in the Latimer Square area to address the Subcommittee.

A copy of the report considered by the Subcommittee on the community consultation is attached.

DEPUTATIONS

Deputations were received as follows:

Mr Hamish Cuthbert, Duncan Cotterill and Co, on behalf of AMI Insurance

Mr Cuthbert spoke on behalf of his client and expressed their concern at the perceived effects the location of a bus layover would have on them. He commented on the degree of consultation which had been undertaken and indicated that his client felt that not enough time had been provided to allow them to consider this matter and to take expert advice on any alternatives and he was aware that other property owners were of a similar view. He felt that adjournment would allow for a better opportunity to find a solution which would be more satisfactory to all parties concerned and AMI had engaged the services of Traffic Design Group to investigate alternative solutions and he would hope that Council staff would be able to liaise with them in this regard.

Specific concerns from his client related to noise, pollution, loss of parking, fumes and changing the amenity values and characteristics of the Square, together with possible traffic congestion.

He felt that the proposal would simply transfer part of the problem from at Rolleston Avenue to Latimer Square and in addition AMI felt duty bound to preserve amenity values for its tenants and were concerned that the proposed bus layover might result in vacancies in this regard. The opportunity was taken to allow members to ask questions and Mr Cuthbert suggested he felt it would be appropriate for the matter to be adjourned to the next Council meeting to allow for consultation and investigation as previously discussed.

Mr David Henderson

Mr Henderson advised that he was a resident and property owner at 12 Latimer Square and felt that Latimer Square had significant potential to become an even better place to live and work. His concern related to the provision of bus layovers and the lack of information and consultation and he indicated he could not understand the reason for this proposal. The opportunity was taken to discuss the role and functions of the bus exchange, which serves as an exchange rather than terminus and the Chairman commented that the Council was anxious for Environment Canterbury to achieve through-routing and were trying to encourage this but that some peripheral termini had always been planned. Mr Henderson commented that the proposed route entailed a 1.3 kilometre journey from the bus exchange to Latimer Square and he felt that there would be other possible locations closer and more suitable, perhaps within industrial zones, which could be used for this purpose. Accordingly he asked that the matter be adjourned to allow for further consultation and investigation.

In response to questions from the Chairman he indicated that his understanding from residents in the eastern side of the Square was that they were opposed to bus stops even if this would provide a more readily accessible bus service.

Mr George Balani

Mr Balani indicated that he was a resident of 12 Latimer Square and had attended the meeting the previous week on 4 October. He commented that he first heard of the proposal following the meeting on 26 September when he had read this in the newspaper and was concerned at the lack of consultation with residents. He concurred with the views expressed by other residents in support of the notice of motion at the meeting on Thursday "that a decision on the matter be adjourned until after the elections".

In response to a question from the Chairman he indicated that he felt that provision of a bus layover would impact on all residents and workers in the Square as buses would be visually quite dominant and impact on what had been previously a low traffic area.

Mr Anthony Gough

Mr Gough advised that he was the owner of property in the immediate vicinity of Latimer Square on the corner of Madras Street and Chester Street East and was also a member of the Mayoral Forum. He indicated that one of the things significant about Latimer Square was that it was the only park on the east side of Christchurch and he was concerned with the provision of a bus layover as he felt that stopped buses were more visually intrusive than mobile traffic and that a park was the wrong place for this. He expressed concern at the short period time for consultation and hoped that the Council would not rush through for a decision on the matter as he felt that the park was the wrong location for this in view of the size and bulk of buses which would present a visual barrier to views of the park.

REPORT ON CONSULTATION

Following the conclusion of the deputations the opportunity was taken to consider the report provided by the Community Advocate, Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board on the public consultation undertaken on 4 October 2001.

Mr Hinman, Central City Policy Leader, provided a summary of the meetings of 26 September and 4 October and the opportunity was taken to ask Mr Noon from Environment Canterbury questions regarding the timetable for the changes would have seen notification of the bus layover from Rolleston Avenue to Latimer Square and the progress on and future possibility for through-routing.

Mr Greg Campbell, CEO, Redbus Company

The opportunity was then taken to allow Mr Campbell to address the meeting and he indicated he felt that the Council should not attempt to hurry this matter if it was not convinced the best solution had been identified and that the need to implement timetable changes in November could possibly be deferred to April 2002 to allow for further consideration. Mr Campbell then also provided details of a suggested alternative which would use a peripheral terminal located outside the Redbus Company bus depot in Ferry Road which would avoid the use of Latimer Square for a layover and assist in reducing bus movements in the Rolleston Avenue area.

A disadvantage was the extra distance and cost required and the fact that patrons in Gloucester Street would have pick up and drop off points on different sides of the intersection. After further discussion it was agreed that a variation to this suggestion would be for buses to return back up Madras Street to the exchange to provide a better service.

The opportunity was then taken to allow Subcommittee members and the Mayor to express their views on the issues raised in respect to the possible provision of a bus layover in Latimer Square in respect to noise, loss of parking, fumes and loss of visual amenity.

In response to questions Mr Noon indicated it would be possible to delay the timetable changes for implementation in late March early April 2002 which would then require a decision by the Council in late January on any changes to bus layovers and that while proper investigation had not yet been undertaken the change to a terminus in Ferry Road may cause an additional bus to be required with an additional cost to Environment Canterbury of about \$100,000 per annum.

Having regard to the deputations received at the Subcommittee meeting and the comments of staff and representatives from Environment Canterbury and Redbus Company the Subcommittee **resolved:**

1. That a decision on the location of a new peripheral terminus to move some of the buses from Rolleston Avenue be deferred until the November or December 2001 Council meeting.

2. That information be obtained on other alternatives eg the provision of a peripheral terminus in Ferry Road outside the Redbus Company depot.
3. That the views of Environment Canterbury on a peripheral terminus in Ferry Road also be sought.
4. That the Bus Stops and Shelters Subcommittee hold a meeting with interested parties in Latimer Square in November.
5. That a report be provided to the November meeting of the City Services Committee on through-routing of buses and an invitation be extended to Environment Canterbury staff and Councillors to attend.