

3. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

(a) Ms Irinka Britnell

Ms Britnell expressed her concern at the proposed stopping of Worcester Street through Latimer Square and tabled a written submission detailing the reasons why she felt the existing status quo should remain. Her stated concerns related to:

- Lack of consideration of the reports from the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board and of the results of the original consultation.
- The impacts on traffic in the area.
- Loss of the unique Latimer Square design.
- Concern about the processes used to date and lack of consultation.

(b) Mr Malcolm Mills, Easy Traders

Mr Mills indicated that he had been trading in Worcester Street near the Stanmore Road junction for some 11 years and felt that more consideration should be given to the overall objectives which were sought to be achieved in terms of redevelopment of the park and elimination of unsuitable social behaviour. He felt that simply stopping the road would not solve these problems.

He stated that the temporary closure of Worcester Street between Latimer Square and Manchester Street during its reconstruction 2002 had had an initial adverse effect on his business, with a significant drop in turnover in the first week following closure, although this had recovered in subsequent weeks. He felt, however, that closure of the road through the square would have negative economic consequences for other retailers in the Worcester Street/Stanmore Road area.

(c) Mr Ian Clark, Civic Trust

Mr Clark spoke on behalf of the Civic Trust and expressed its support for the closure of Worcester Street through Latimer Square as suggested in option two of the previous consultation. He indicated that in the view of the Trust this would then ensure Latimer Square would be visually similar to Cranmer Square. He re-emphasised the points made by the Civic Trust in its original submission in December 2002 about the development of the Square and its future role as a civic space. He commented that should the situation be reversed and the Council be now seeking to place a road through Latimer Square, there would be significant opposition and he felt that those currently opposed would in due course accept the road closure and that the space should be dedicated to pedestrians rather than motor vehicles.

(d) Mr Ralph Ross, Christchurch Combined Residents' Association

Mr Ross made an oral presentation expressing concern at the process regarding the road stopping and in particular the proposed variation of the City Plan to show the road as stopped. It was explained to Mr Ross that the recommendation before the Committee was for the road stopping process to commence in terms of the requirements of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 which would allow for public notification and the lodging of submissions. He advised that discussions by his Association with local residents groups had indicated a preference for the road to remain open.

The above deputations were considered in association with the report on the road stopping contained within the agenda.