

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

NOTES OF A SEMINAR OF THE COUNCIL

**Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices
on Wednesday 25 July 2007 at 3.00pm**

PRESENT: Mayor Garry Moore, (Chair), Councillors Helen Broughton, Sally Buck, Graham Condon (until 4.24 pm), Barry Corbett, Bob Parker, Bob Shearing and Sue Wells (until 4.45 pm).

IN ATTENDANCE: **Community Board member:** Paul de Spa.

Council Officers: Tony Marryatt (Chief Executive Officer), Dave Hinman (Principal Advisor, Central City and Projects), Diane Keenan (Communications Unit Manager), Kevin Mara (General Manager, Capital Programme), and Jane Parfitt (General Manager City Environment).

Isthmus: Garth Falconer.

Alliance Project Director: Sean Whitaker.

Works Infrastructure: Steve Killeen.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors David Cox, Gail Sheriff, and Norm Withers.

1. CITY MALL UPDATE

The Alliance project team provided an update on progress with this project. Kevin Mara and Jane Parfitt, with support from Di Keenan, spoke in conjunction to a power point presentation, (copy on file).

Jane Parfitt then introduced Garth Falconer, Sean Whittaker, and Steve Killeen.

Isthmus

Garth Falconer then provided an update on the design via a PowerPoint presentation of frames titled as follows:

- Project objectives – site specific methodology
- Overall vision
- Conceptual Master Plan – August 2006
- Post-consultation master plan
- Post-consultation master plan – December 2006

ACTION

ACTION

- Current master plan – July 2007
- High Street (processional street)
- Barriers to be removed
- Stage 1 – High Street (Stewart Plaza)
- High/Hereford Reserve (Stewart Plaza)
- Stage 1a – Starts 1 August
- High/Cashel Reserve (Hack Circle)
- East and West Cashel
- Cashel Street
- West Cashel Street (Bridge of Remembrance)
- Street furniture palette
- Sustainability Outcomes: Environmental/Economic/Social
- High/Hereford Reserve (Stewart Plaza)

Alliance Project Director Sean Whittaker then outlined the construction programme: will be on site next week. Three stages: High, Part Cashel, and remainder of Cashel to Bridge of Remembrance. Will start at top end of High Street, working through until end of November (break over the Christmas period), by which time should be half way down High Street; completed May 2008. Project completed by end of 2009.

An invitation was extended to visit the project office, located on the top floor of the Triangle Centre.

The **Communications Plan** for this project was then described by Di Keenan.

Virtual View: A video of the project followed which took the viewer through a virtual tour of the proposed project, once completed.

Questions and comments which followed included:

- Looking at the cross section displayed in the power point presentation there appeared to be a steepness of the kerb at the transition point between service lane and flat walking area – was this cause for concern?
- Concern expressed: why bringing this back to the Council now, when construction due to commence next week?
- High Street Airbridge – submitter last year had considered it was vital this be retained to encourage use of adjoining commercial space. If the airbridge is taken down, could the Council build a replacement?
- High Street businesses had signed off on the road proposal. Had there been any discussion with Cashel Mall businesses on the through road proposal?
- Hack circle – has Unlimited school been consulted?
- Are cars allowed to park in Cashel Mall or High Street?
- Joint visit to Project Office proposed.
- Put plan on internet?
- Community engagement important – essential all aspects of this project are non-confrontational.
- Need to ensure political support at all stages.

ACTION

- The power point graph showing stone life was referred to. Longevity of bluestone paving questioned – want best quality – not a repeat of Cathedral Square.
- Stewart Plaza – no recollection of the Council signing off on having no water feature. (Response was that last year Isthmus was trying to make a water feature happen. Discussions with Stewart family led to effective lighting as a substitute.)
- Kiosk in Hack circle – will this be moveable?
- Service vehicles – will they congregate in one area?
- Service lane – will delineation colours be obvious to aging population?
- Concern at bitumen proposal but recognised this surface type will be required to cope with the tonnage of service vehicles.
- Public perception re “slow road” v. “service lane”: The fact that a Special Consultative Procedure will be needed for the level of traffic has led to conflicting messages from Council. The 14 December 2006 amendment approved *inter alia*, “the installation of one-way slow road ... to permit private vehicle and bicycle access” This resolution signalled to the public a road was possible. Messages from the past couple of months had added conflicting information. Media coverage and existing signage was leading to the public view that the Council was prejudging the decision, and traffic in the mall will be a foregone conclusion. Would it be useful for the Council to affirm it does not wish to allow private vehicles? Needs to be in line with communications.
- Public consultation on the use will be undertaken during the next term of Council.
- Width of lane now down to 3 metres – will service delivery vehicles line up while delivering?
- The presentation of ‘form following function’ was questioned.
- The term “service lane” appears after April 2007: presented to the Council as a “slow road” initially.
- The 14 December 2006 vote was around construction “to provide for service and emergency vehicles”.
- Original concrete base for tram track still in place, and will be exposed.: same alignment as “service lane”.
- How will this project lead to an increase in intensity of development in the central city?
- If the future increase in residential population doubles or trebles, is the number of motor vehicles projected to increase?
- Place for “traffic-free” streets?
- Concept plan was signed off in December 2006, and elected members had heard nothing further until today. Concern expressed at proposed bitumen surface – the Council hasn’t signed off on the detail.
- Council had voted to keep its options open and ensure debate not foreclosed – there will be future discussion on use.

A vote of thanks was expressed to the Alliance team for their efforts to date.

Invitation: Morgan Williams (former Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment), will be visiting Christchurch next month to talk about “adding value”.

Details are:

- Saturday 18 August 2007
- 9-10.30 am
- Debating chamber at Our City O-Tautahi, corner Worcester Boulevard and Oxford Terrace.

The seminar concluded at 4.44 pm.

ACTION