



NEW HIGH STREET LAYBY

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 61/12

12 NOVEMBER 2012

The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with details of the latest Traffic Order for the creation of the new layby and summarise the recommendations of its Working Group.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Following the Town Council's objections to the initial Traffic Order providing for the creation of a new layby, a new Traffic Order was issued by the Isle of Wight Council on 12 October 2012.
 - b) This contained two minor amendments:
 - a change in its location of 4.5 metres to the east; and
 - the change to the 'loading only' provision from 7am – 10am to 7am – 7pm
 - c) A consequential change is the decision to remodel the traffic island at the bottom of Spring Hill to give more space for buses to turn into the High Street while avoiding the delivery bay.
 - d) Although the closure of the consultation period is advertised as 9 November, Ventnor Town Council has been given an extension to Tuesday 13 November in order to allow the Town Council to respond formally.
 - e) The Town Council established a Working Group at its meeting of 8 October to consider the proposals consisting of the Town Clerk with Councillors Harry Rees, Jim Toogood and Debby Robinson together with local Architect Neil Geddes.
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2) WORKING GROUP

- a) The Working Group met on Tuesday 23 October with copies of the revised plans for the layby and helpful images of the proposed location provided by Neil Geddes and attached to this report.
 - b) Concerns about safety were central to its discussions, particularly in the context of the other High Street works provided for in the 2007 planning application including the installation of a puffin crossing. It is important to note that the Town Council's meetings of June and July 2007 to consider these plans resulted in a range of objections that were ignored by the planning authority.
 - c) The removal from the current plans of the proposed build-out of the pavement to provide protection for the loading area adds to the dangers to both delivery drivers and vehicles as no deflection of traffic movement is provided for.
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3) RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group recommends that the Town Council resolves that Ventnor Town Council:

- a) places on record that it regards the proposals as unsafe and re-iterates the concerns of its 2007 predecessor Town Council;
 - b) proposes that if the scheme proceeds as planned, a 20mph limit be implemented throughout the town's central area; and
 - c) asks that it be made clear that the use of the layby is open to vehicles delivering to all High Street shops and premises.
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