

## **RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2000**

- PRESENT** Councillor Mrs Haysom – in the Chair
- Councillors Mrs Bickley, Mrs Cruse, J S Clark, Mrs Cole, Gamlin, M Johnston, Pickering, Whitfield
- Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council
- APOLOGIES** Councillors J Johnston, Palmer, Pasley, Terry

#### **RW400 TRANSPORT ISSUES**

##### **(a) Report of Transport Working Party 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2000**

The report of the Transport Working Party held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2000 was noted with an amendment being made to paragraph 8 – delete reference to Wyndham Way and substitute Portbury Hundreds.

It was also noted that letters indicating the Town Council's interest in the rail franchising bids had been forwarded to Stagecoach Holdings plc, First Great Western, the Strategic Rail Authority and Prism/National Express.

##### **(b) Changes to Bus Services**

Arising from the above report it was noted that First Badgerline were proposing to withdraw the X58 limited stop Clevedon to Bristol (via Walton-in-Gordano and Portishead) service and certain early morning 358 and 359 Portishead to Bristol (via Easton-in-Gordano and Pill) services. The Committee viewed this with great concern, particularly as the Local Transport Plan which had recently been submitted to the government included proposals to provide a 15 minute limited stop service to Bristol and increased frequency of the 358/359 service.

RECOMMENDED that

1. A letter to be sent to North Somerset Council to ask for their support of one early Saturday service and to point out that the extension of the limited stop service was central to the public transport policy advocated in the Phase 1 Portishead Corridor Study and the Local Transport Plan.
2. A letter to also be sent to the DETR informing them of Badgerline's proposals which are contrary to paragraph 6.3.6 in the LTP. The DETR to also be informed that the Town Council are actively supporting the establishment of a rail link with Bristol and are extremely concerned that the Phase II Corridor Study had not been completed in time to be included in the Plan.

(a) **Report of Meeting held with Mr Jeff Bunting, NSC Highways Engineer, on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2000 to discuss traffic calming measures for Portishead High Street.**

Members noted that North Somerset Council had requested that this matter be deferred until the impact on the High Street of the proposed Cabstand re-design and development had been considered further. The Clerk indicated that she expected the next meeting with Highways Engineers to take place during early October.

The Clerk also informed members that Mr Bunting had acknowledged the untidy condition of the High Street/Combe Road junction and hoped to be able to carry out minor enhancement works – reinstatement of black road surface and highway markings and enhancement of roundabout “hump” – shortly. This was welcomed by the Committee on condition that the works did not impact on any future highway schemes and access to Carey’s DIY was not compromised. A proposal for the roundabout “hump” to be enhanced by brick pavements was not supported.

(b) **Experimental Closure of St Mary’s Road (upper)**

As the experimental closure was shortly to be reviewed by North Somerset Council members were asked for their views on whether the restriction should be made permanent or some other solution found (Minute No. RW360 refers).

A lengthy discussion ensued on this matter with many comments being made, particularly about the increase in traffic on other roads in the town, especially Avon Way, Rippleside, West Hill and High Street. Members also considered other options to the road closure – traffic calming measures, introduction of one-way system on St Mary’s Road (lower), and the provision of a footpath on St Mary’s Road (upper)

The voting on this issue was split 4/4. On the casting vote of the Chairman it was RECOMMENDED that

The experimental closure of St Mary’s Road (upper) be made permanent. However, should North Somerset Council be otherwise minded, we would wish the following issues to be addressed –

- The junction of St Mary’s Road (upper) and St Mary’s Road (lower) be built out to prevent left-turns.
- St Mary’s Road (lower) be made one way – traffic direction from the High Street towards St Mary’s Road (upper)
- Wetlands Lane should be traffic calmed

- St Mary's Road (upper) should have a reduced speed limit and other traffic calming measures ie road humps

## **RW402      PROVISION OF PUBLIC SEATS**

Councillor Mrs Haysom advised members that she had received a request for a public seat to be installed on Cabstand and that she considered there must be other areas in the town that would benefit from having a public seat. Members were asked to give any suggestions to the Clerk.

RECOMMENDED that the following areas be investigated in the first instance –

- Cabstand – in the vicinity of Cabstand Caterers
- The grassed area on St Peters Road at the top of Church Road South/North
- High Street – adjacent to the entrance to the Folk Hall Car Park

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm