

, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 11 November 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee held at Livery Hall on Tuesday, 11 November 2014 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Michael Welbank (Chairman)	George Gillon
Randall Anderson	Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Alex Bain-Stewart	Paul Martinelli
David Bradshaw	Brian Mooney
Deputy John Chapman	Deputy Alastair Moss
Dennis Cotgrove	Sylvia Moys
Revd Dr Martin Dudley	Graham Packham
Peter Dunphy	Deputy Henry Pollard
Emma Edhem	Alderman Matthew Richardson
Alderman Peter Estlin	Angela Starling
Sophie Fernandes	Patrick Streeter
Marianne Fredericks	Deputy James Thomson
Deputy Bill Fraser	

In Attendance

Officers:

Julie Mayer	Town Clerk's Department
Deborah Cluett	Comptroller's and City Solicitors Department
Philip Everett	Director of the Built Environment
Annie Hampson	Department of the Built Environment
Paul Beckett	Department of the Built Environment
Paul Monaghan	Department of the Built Environment
Iain Simmons	Department of the Built Environment
Martin Rodman	Open Spaces Department
Alan Rickwood	City Police
Alexander Williams	City Police

1. APOLOGIES

At the start of the meeting, Members left the Livery Hall and went into the Guildhall Yard to observe 2 minutes' silence in respect of Remembrance Day.

Apologies for absence were received from Oliver Lodge (Deputy Chairman); Brian Harris; Christopher Hayward; Gregory Jones QC; Deputy Henry Jones;

Deputy Keith Knowles; Alderman Neil Redcliffe; Tom Sleigh and Graham Smith.

Before commencing the business on the agenda, Members were asked to stand in a minute's silence to remember Mrs Dorothy Robinson who had recently passed away. Mrs Robinson had been a Member of the Court since 1989 and a serving Member of the Planning and Transportation Committee for many years.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Marianne Fredericks declared a general, non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 12 (Public Car Parks – review of provision and asset management strategy) as she is a residential parking season ticket holder.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED –That:

- a) the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 14 October 2014; and
- b) the minutes of the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee meetings held on 22 September and 20 October 2014 be noted.

4. DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Committee received a report of the Chief Planning Officer and Development Director relative to development and advertisement applications dealt with under delegated authority since the previous meeting.

In response to a question about retrospective planning applications, the Chief Planning Officer advised that these generally applied to temporary use. However, she agreed to investigate the circumstances and report back to Members.

5. VALID APPLICATIONS LIST FOR COMMITTEE

The Committee received a report of the Chief Planning Officer and Development Director which provided details of valid planning applications received by the department.

6. CHANGES TO ENGLISH HERITAGE

The Committee received a report of the Chief Planning Officer in respect of changes to English Heritage. Members noted that on 14 October 2014, the Government announced the separation of English Heritage into two organisations; English Heritage and Historic England, with effect from 1 April 2015.

The Chairman advised that Members of the Planning and Transportation Committee would receive a training session on English Heritage following the next meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee, after lunch.

RESOLVED, that:

The Historic England Draft Corporate Plan (2015-18); '*Valuing our Past, Enriching our Future*', be noted.

7. REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

7a) Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment in respect of the Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy. Given that the Consultation Document was very large, a copy had been made available in the Members' Reading Room and was available on line. The Court of Common Council would also consider the report on 15 January 2015. Members received a presentation on the Strategy at the start of the item.

During the discussion and questions, the following matters were raised/noted:

- The noise from South of the River was acknowledged and officers explained that, as this was such a flat area, noise tended to bounce and travelled further. However, this issue and that of buskers, was under scrutiny by the Environmental Health team.
- To avoid confusion, signage was being kept to a minimum and under constant review.
- In respect of Queensbridge House, if there was no start on site by January, Members would receive a report on alternative options.
- The Cycle Super Highway (which was the subject of an item of urgent business on this agenda) could enhance the walkway, if well designed.
- It was possible to adjust vehicle capacity at White Lion Hill.

RESOLVED, that:

The revised Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy be adopted.

7b) Major Highway Works

The Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment in respect of Major Highway Works. In response to questions, Members noted that Planning Officers worked closely with Transport for London (TfL) to reduce the impact of road and bus route closures and would remain vigilant of unclear signage for diversions and alternative bus stops. Social media was also being used to ensure that the information reached as wide an audience as possible.

Members felt strongly that local road networks were close to capacity and therefore non-essential traffic should be discouraged. Whilst accepting this as a valid point, the Chairman reminded Members that this was outside the scope of the report. However, officers advised that work was on-going with Transport for London (TfL) on the pollution levels from the Beech Street Tunnel and traffic surveys were also exploring the impact of freight and deliveries. In addition, Crossrail would be a major focus for TfL and the Local Implementation Plan.

RESOLVED, that:

The Major Highways Works report (2015/16) be noted.

7c Street Works update

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment in respect of street works.

RESOLVED, that:

The Street Works Update be noted.

7d) Highways Maintenance funding and effectiveness.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment in respect of Highway Maintenance: funding and effectiveness.

During the discussion and questions on this item, the following matters were raised/noted:

- In respect of pedestrian and motorist injuries, the Department of the Built Environment worked closely with the Chamberlain's Department in tracking and monitoring insurance claims. This work informed the new inspection regimes. Members noted that the number of motoring claims was higher than that for pedestrians but the numbers for both were manageable.
- All enforcement penalties were in line with the statutory rate as prescribed in the Streets and Walkways Act.
- It was accepted that the gulleys at Holborn Viaduct often flooded, due to the loading of heavy vehicles on the highway at Police checkpoints but the lessons learnt would be applied to future projects.
- In response to a question as to whether cafes or other commercial users should contribute to the upkeep of the pavements, the Chairman of the Licensing Committee advised that the City of London Corporation could not make a profit from pavement use but if the pavements were not maintained in a satisfactory condition, then the premises' license would be at risk. The Chairman suggested that a report be presented to both

the Planning and Transportation and Port Health Committees on the use of Walkways for commercial purposes.

RESOLVED, that:

No further savings be made from the highways maintenance budgets as part of the current review.

Officers continue to monitor the highways through the various measures outlined in this report and bring a further report, on the highways' condition and the resources needed to maintain it, in 12 months' time.

7 e) A Review of the Current Notification Policy

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Planning Officer and the Development Director in respect of the Current Notification Policy and whether to include commercial neighbours as part of the consultation process.

RESOLVED, that:

There be no change to the current policy on notification of commercial occupiers/owners but a review of the site notices.

8. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

- In respect of a question about enforcement action following the recently imposed 20 mph limit in the City, Members noted that the Police had accepted the signage as compliant and enforcement action had doubled since the limit was introduced in July. Ten sites were currently being monitored and the Planning and Transportation Committee would receive a report once the scheme had been in operation for 6 months.
- Members noted that the Millennium Indicator would be back in operation by 14th November and the Chairman asked for a report at the next meeting.
- In respect of enforcement action on ice cream vans, Members noted that enforcement action (i.e. seizure of the vans) was more effective than ever and could be taken by both Environmental Health and the Police.
- Ian Hughes and his team were highly commended for their assistance in managing the crowds viewing the poppies at the Tower of London.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment in respect of the Cycle Superhighways and sought approval to the City's formal response to the public consultation. The report was before the Committee as an item of Urgent Business as there had been various extensions to the Mayor of London's deadlines and, since the latest had been extended to 30th November, this had allowed the Committee to consider the item, rather than

deal with it under 'urgency' provision. Members noted that the Chairman of Policy and Resources was content to sign the letter.

During the discussion of this item, the following issues were raised/noted:

- Members suggested that Paragraph 13 could either be clearer or removed altogether. If it were to remain in, it should be very clear that the use of Castle Baynard Street was essential and it was also suggested that the paragraph state that that the City of London Corporation '*might support*' etc.
- Officers assured Members that the letter made the City's serious reservations very clear.
- Members also felt that reservations about Ludgate Circus (para 3) could be stronger.
- Members were concerned that the pavements at Tower Hill were already too narrow and this had come to light during the recent poppies display. Members suggested that this should also be taken into account in future highway schemes.
- There should be reference to the behaviour of cyclists and their illegal use of footpaths.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The City support the future use of Castle Baynard Street for the E-W Cycle Superhighway on the condition that the N-S Cycle and E-W Superhighway proposals be agreed with the City, prior to implementation.
2. The City's response, as detailed in Annexe 2, be re-drafted in accordance with the wording and design suggestions set out above.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No	Para No
12-14	3

11. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED –That:

The non-public minutes of the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee meetings held on 22 September and 20 October 2014 be noted.

12. **PUBLIC CAR PARKS - REVIEW OF CAR PARK PROVISION AND ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Members considered a joint report of the City Surveyor and the Director of the Built Environment in respect of Public Car Parks – review of provision and asset management strategy.

13. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1.15 pm

Chairman

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