

MTC Full Council 20.10.20

Report No 1 High Street Update

1. Following the last Full Council this matter was further considered at the Policy and Resources Committee on the 7th October, where an amended scheme drawn up by Wiltshire Council Highways was presented.
2. The revised scheme as outlined here was finalised based on Highways advice in terms of the expressed need by pedestrian residents and retailers, what is legal and achievable, and what is 'Covid Safe' whilst balanced with highway safety.
3. The revised scheme incorporated
 - Protected pedestrian space where needed, advised by Wiltshire Council Public Health and the Government
 - the reintroduction of partial parking in the High Street
 - the instatement of 30-minute parking in the High Street and in Abbey Row
 - x2 additional parking spaces at Abbey Row
 - the instatement of x1 hour parking at Market Cross
 - a revised bollard arrangement, using better quality pole cones in the High Street and Oxford Street
 - the introduction of planters in places along the High Street to aid the aesthetics
 - the introduction of a disabled parking bay in the High Street
 - x3 delivery bays in the High Street on the left-hand approach
4. The Policy and Resources Committee requested that if possible amendments included;
 - ensuring pedestrian space outside Mistral, the Wild Food Company, the Work Box due to the narrowing of the pavement.
 - moving proposed parking spaces outside these premises further up the High St on the right-hand approach.
 - Adjusting the delivery bay arrangement proposed outside the Kings Arms up to adjoin where the double yellow lines meet the Old Bake House; allowing a 'soft' pull in for any vans.
 - Ensuring pedestrian safety whilst queuing extends to cover the pavement outside the Old Bake House.
 - Spacing the pole cones to reduce cost, and interjecting more planters to compensate.
 - Adjusting the alignment of some planters in the scheme to run parallel to the highway to allow more flexibility for pedestrians.

5. Following the Policy and Resources Committee's scrutiny a further meeting on 12th October was held between the Town Clerk and Martin Rose (WC Highways) to feedback and re-work where possible adjustments to the proposed scheme. (Refer to High Street Scheme phase 2 Version B)
6. On the 14th October the Town Clerk met with Wiltshire Council Officers to clarify the funding commitment from Wiltshire Council, an appropriate joint press release, and joint actions to progress and resolve this matter.
7. These matters all hinge (at the time of writing this report) on Wiltshire Council's procurement advice regarding the use of European funds allocated to local authorities for schemes such as the one in question. Wiltshire Council has no direct budget allocation to fund this work. It is hoped that clarity on this will be provided by Wiltshire Council imminently.
8. Until the question of funding on Wiltshire Council's side is clarified and assured, it is hard for Malmesbury Town Council to commit to supporting the scheme also; the proposed High Street scheme in its entirety, including ongoing maintenance, is beyond the scope and parameters of this Council.
9. Given the working progress of this matter, a further verbal update will be given at the time of the meeting as required.

Richard Spencer-Williams – Town Clerk