

Informal Notes of Shadow Conseil Municipal – 5^h May 2020

Present:

Constable Simon Crowcroft. Mario Pirozzolo, Procureur Geraint Jennings, John Baker, Procureur Peter Pearce, Barbara Corbett, Lyndsay Feltham. Barry Le Feuvre, Mike Keirle

Parish Officers: Alison Sweeney, Silvio Alves and Jason Turner CEO

Apologies:

Bernie Manning, Bob Le Brocq and Malcolm L'Amey

Declaration of Interests – None recorded

Matters Arising – None

Minutes Approved - No amendments

There are two main items for discussion.

ITEM 1:

The Shadow Conseil is asked to discuss road / traffic / transport opportunities to support parishioners through and out of the current 'lockdown'.

The Conseil need to establish a collective view, whether this be an informal or formal meeting and establish a way to take it forward.

The lockdown has demonstrated that St Helier should be gearing up to deal with re-using public space, as businesses reopen and physical distancing is required. Other countries and jurisdictions are creating wider pavements and in doing so redefining road space for social distancing purposes. An example of where this has worked in St Helier is in front of Spectrum, in Gloucester Street where a coned area has made it easier and safer for bikes and e-bikes to be utilised by the public

The Conseil deliberated as to how St Helier can reopen public exchange, without creating extra space. Public transport has reduced but there is still a requirement for people to get around. There will shortly be increased demands from catering operations for alfresco areas and more space is needed for business to trade safely.

St Helier has to create urban areas and suppress on street car parking. There are many shops which will have to change the way they operate, with some having to serve from doorways, this will result in queues in the street.

St Helier needs to be more imaginative and a radical reorganisation of open space is needed, linking the countryside and rural residents with safe access to the heart of town.

It will require a written proposition from the Constable, to be able to fast track licence applications for alfresco areas. This is something Parish Officers are currently focusing on.

These are excellent ideas but currently the Shadow Conseil has no powers. At Roads Committee it has been a constant topic to try to make a difference; we have to think not only of the town centre, but also areas like Vallee Des Vaux where to achieve physical distancing the public will have to step into the road. It is a good idea in country lanes to reduce car usage, the Highway Code only gives guidance as to pedestrians over cars, but it is not the law only a recommendation.

It is a broad topic and a member of the SCM has circulated a 4000 word document. We need to grasp the nettle of complications of the licensing law if we can get some change for a covid19, it will give assistance with a masterplan for the future, but we need to consider the whole Parish not just the Town centre

It was suggested that it would be a quick win to close Broad Street to extend alfresco/chose publique areas

It was suggested that if we made a principle where people walked on the right hand side pavement it would make them one way, as you would in an escalator. There were concern expressed by some members as to how retailers would feel about this, as it would mean potential customers would walk past their shop on the other side of the road It was also stated that some roads only have a pavement on one side.

A number of members felt we should be seeking views of the public before taking ideas forward. There were concerns that it may mean reduced car parking for market traders and those who choose to shop in town. It may also reduce disabled parking close to the shops. Road closures could do more harm than good and kill some trade. More consultation is needed before jumping in. There were some concerns that this was an informal meeting and therefore any motion should be delayed until the meeting could be open to the public

A question was posed as to whether pedestrian crossings could be altered to allow people time to cross roads and to social distance. It is something that can be explore between the Parish and GHE.

It was stated that Covid19 had highlighted just how important a walking and cycling strategy are for the Island. Over the years it has felt like the Constable has been flogging a dead horse and therefore there is none in place when it is most required.

ITEM 2

Proposal from Julian Rogers – Roads Committee to desist from requiring one parking space per dwelling

The Shadow Conseil is asked to discuss the matter and the Environment Portfolio Committee is requested to look at making recommendations to the Roads Committee and Shadow Conseil Municipal over the course of this year.

It is not my intention to say **in detail** what I think is wrong with forcing new property owners or lease holders to pay for tied parking spaces. In **summary** it is just environmentally wrong, hypocritical, ineffective, politically inept, unsatisfactory, unfair and unreasonable. This really is a matter for the States in general and the Ministers responsible for Housing and Planning in particular, not the Parish of St.Helier.

In the past it might have seemed appropriate for the Parish to attempt to thus reduce the demand on public parking spaces but I cannot see how it would ever have been reasonable for us to force such new rate-payers to contribute in this way.

Support for an extra tax levied on just one small part of the community is not appropriate for the Parish of St.Helier, We, the Parish, have done nothing to provide multi storey parking here. Our contribution to parking issues has been to take what was public land and charge for its use for parking.

I propose that we should **desist** from adding a Parish opinion to this planning issue in future. Planning will ignore us anyway, and where it is clearly unreasonable to demand such tied parking spaces (as in the new development on the East side of Wests Centre for example) common sense seems to prevail.

I am keen to know what others think on this issue.

It was stated that Government Planning Officers had revised the parking standards a while ago and that a draft report was due to go out to public consultation this year. The Parish will ask them to do a presentation to the Roads Committee so that there is joined up thinking

There was support for this proposition as it was explained that in some developments people were happy not to own a car and now that Evie cars and cycles were in place this may make people think twice and could reduce car ownership further

It explains the need for a car strategy in town. Housing is being built but there is nowhere to park. Developers need to take ownership with what to do with car parking and introduce car share schemes. Where will cars go if property developers don't provide car parking?

If we have a change of policy there will be less pollution from cars on the street and we could embrace a Garden City. If parking was charged for all the time, less people would choose to own a car. At night nobody pays for car parking, if we charged for night parking even at a reduced rate there would be more money to build public car parks it would encourage other modes of transport

Some members spoke of living in town and wishing to own their own car parking. If we do not have this policy what would happen if I want to tow a boat. It gives St Helier people more freedom one space per property is reasonable

A vote was taken, five in favour of the proposals and four against. One said they would like more consultation before making a decision but if they had to vote currently they would vote against

ITEM 3

Community Services Portfolio Plan

Members of the Community Services Portfolio are

Julian Rogers

Barbara Corbett

Barry Le Feuvre

Malcolm L'Amy

The Community Services Portfolio Plan remains as it was immediately before lockdown.
The three investigation and documentation elements are still relevant post-lockdown
The information sharing meetings are as appropriate as they were, but with altered subject matter

The weekday published list of activities is in urgent need of update and republication.
The website has more than 100 obsolete "what's on" panels, mostly dating from October last year.

I am confident that Parish will have the latter fixed this by the time of our next Zoom meeting on 20th

It was stated that the group were liaising with Deputy Inna Gardeners Group

A vote was taken and everyone was happy to adopt

There were questions and criticism about the Parish website. It was explained this was an ongoing project and changes were on the way

AOB

Concerns were raised over cars parking on zig zag lines near the crossing in Bath Street, someone will get seriously injured or worse. A new café has opened and people are stopping to pick up food/coffees. The Chief de Police and Honorary Police to be advised of the matter