

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEETING 4th April 2007

The following Statements and Questions had been registered by the time of publication.

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

There were 6 notices of intention to make a statement at the meeting.

- Councillor Gitte Dawson
Re: Zero Waste
- Councillor David Bellotti
Re: Council Finances
- Councillor Tim Ball
Re: Council Finances
- Ian Thorn
Re: Probity
- Justin Braithwaite (Resident of Marlborough Buildings and Julian Road Campaign Leader)
Re: Julian Road Shared Space Scheme
- Councillor Andy Furse
Re: Julian Road Shared Space Scheme

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1	Question from: Roger Crouch
To ask the executive member for highways and transport whether any consideration has been given to creating safe pedestrian crossings on the lower reaches of Lansdown and on the Paragon. If not, could the executive member give serious consideration to the matter given that there are no safe crossings, particularly for the elderly and children, on either road.	
	Answer from: Councillor Sir Elgar Jenkins OBE
<i>The Department has a policy aimed at helping members of public who have mobility difficulties. The issue of pedestrian access is reviewed regularly and a number of locations on Lansdown Road have been investigated with a view to providing a pedestrian crossing between Julian Road and Camden Road. Due to</i>	

high footways it is difficult to locate a suitable position for a pedestrian crossing. However, a suitable location has been found below Guinea Lane on Lansdown Road where a controlled pedestrian crossing can be sited. This proposal has been included in the works programme for the financial year 2007/08 and we will also look into the point raised about the Paragon.

2 Question from: Councillor Roger Symonds

Question **withdrawn** by Councillor Symonds

3 Question from: Justin Braithwaite and Councillor Andy Furse

Would the Executive Member agree that the shared space road scheme being developed for Julian Road is an exciting and imaginative project which could be viewed as a pilot not just for Bath and NE Somerset but for all highway authorities? Would you also agree that if your answer to the first part of this question is yes then the work should be scheduled for implementation as soon as possible by reprioritising the Transport and Highways budget?

Answer from: Councillor Sir Elgar Jenkins OBE

The shared space road scheme as set out in Julian Road is an exciting and imaginative project. It has, of course, its critics as well as its supporters. There are ideas contained within it which are being followed through by other Councils and at least one Parish area in our Authority is considering the application of the ideas contained within it in that Parish area.

There are many projects throughout Bath and NE Somerset asking for Capital funding from the Department next year, not least our share of funding to help obtain further Government money for use in Bath and NE Somerset and new projects like the proposed Twin Tunnels project. In the light of these facts I cannot schedule further large sums for Julian Road for 2008/2009. The Department has already great difficulty in balancing the likely Capital Budget available in that year.

Answer from: Councillor Gerry Curran

Yes, I agree that it is an exciting and innovative idea of national significance. I note that approximately £100,000 has been spent on phase 1 of the scheme and I would ask the executive member for Transportation and Highways, post May 3rd, to bring forward proposals for the possible completion of the project, within a realistic timescale.

Answer from: Councillor Paul Crossley

I think the Julian Road shared space road scheme is one of the most exciting and

innovative ideas in our region and deserves our full support to make sure it is implemented successfully. I therefore believe it should be developed as swiftly as possible with expert guidance from people such as Ben Hamilton-Baillie in order that we can learn the lesson to roll out in more highway areas as appropriate.

Supplementary Question from: Councillor Andy Furse

I would like to thank the Executive members for their replies. Would the Cotswold Way crossing be included within the scheme?

Answer from: Councillor Sir Elgar Jenkins OBE

Yes.

6 Question from: Justin Braithwaite and Councillor Andy Furse

Would the Executive Member confirm that the design for all future phases will be drawn up in consultation with The Parkside Community Safety Action Group, Julian Road Campaign Team and that the professional advice of Ben Hamilton-Baillie and associates will be sought?

Answer from: Councillor Sir Elgar Jenkins OBE

The design of the next phase will be drawn up in consultation with the Parkside Community Safety Action Group and the Julian Road Campaign team, and we will take on board any professional advice we receive from Ben Hamilton-Baillie and Associates.