

Malcolm Baldwin – Statement to Cabinet 15th December 2021

Good evening,

having spoken about "Liveable Neighbourhoods" at Cabinet on the 20th May (7 months ago) this may appear as 'ground-hog' dayfor which, with respect, I make no apology!

"Liveable Neighbourhoods" and their effective implementation will be a reflection of our positive aspirations for a cleaner, healthier and more economically energised city, for businesses and residents alike! Sensitively implemented and effectively monitored, the mandate you have and the enthusiasm you have created amongst many should now not be wasted.

You have the mandate don't let others convince you otherwise and stay consistent to the narrative!

A number of residents associations, excited by the aims and content of your "Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy" have invested much time, thought and effort into their proposals let's not let it be wasted!

Using CARA, my own RA as an example, in November 2020 we consulted approximately 960 households within our catchment area and did so on a detailed basis, with a result of circa 80% being in favour of our concept. We also gained support from a number of neighbouring residents associations.

CARA's concept represents 'low hanging fruit' with the enhancements it would bring to a key heritage area and the economic and well-being benefits attached to that for our city and local businesses.

Low hanging fruit is NOT about "not frightening the horses" in what we introduce! It's about using the support, the advocates that you have to introduce something substantial and meaningful for the benefit of entire neighbourhoods. CARA'S concept for a "Liveable Neighbourhood" IS your 'low hanging fruit': substantial to test the detail and nuances, supported by advocates throughout our community and low cost!

"Liveable Neighbourhoods" are a journey not a final destination! Our city needs some 'inaugural' "Low Traffic Neighbourhoods", both perhaps simple and more complex, to properly validate the strategy.

I believe, that this Council is braver than people think! The 'genie' is well and truly out of the bottle. Now let's act on that vision. Don't get wobbly! Let's all be brave!

To key Councillors, the Executive, officers come and talk and fully engage with us. CARA is ready.....we can and are willing to help on this journey, but do be brave!