

Haslemere Vision : Transport Group

Notes on the 3rd meeting held in the Town Hall on Thursday 17th October at 8:15

Present: Stephen Bennett, Nikki Barton, Andy Braithwaite, Ken Griffiths, Cyndy Lancaster, Stephen Mulliner, David Round, Robert Serman, David Simmons. David Boyd (Weydown/Derby Rds residents) joined us.

Apologies: Paul Megson, Chloe Nash, David O'Brien, Marianne O'Brien,

Absent: Sandra McHugh, Dominic Walton.

Chairman: David Round who also took notes of the meeting

Minutes of Meeting 2. They had been agreed and were approved. No matters arose.

Equipped with large-scale plans of the Town Centre, from Swan Barn to Junction Place Weyhill – we spent a very useful hour-and-a-half poring over the plans and seeking to reconcile them with our emerging thoughts and the walk through the town that some of us had the previous week.

Details of what was discussed will be provided separately to the Vision Steering Group. Ideas included:

- The need to link the two ends of Haslemere with pleasant **Green Routes** for walkers and cyclists. We believe that Haslemere should be one Town or two – transport measures could help integrate the two “ends”
- A one-way system around the town – clockwise from the Town Hall along Lower St, Tanners Lane, existing small car park and West St. The roads are too narrow for safe two-way traffic. This would enable:
- Half the High Street to be a pedestrian zone – from West St to the Town Hall, which would cease to be an island. The High Street to be “shared space” for vehicles and people with speed reduction measures (ideally a 20mph limit).
- Revise the Waitrose Car Park to become, in part, more of a central “piazza” or meeting area.
- “Green Route” for cyclists and pedestrians from the High St through the Waitrose car park to the Town Meadow. From there to the Station and from the Station to Wey Hill (difficult but there are options).
- Cope with a rough increase of 25% in population – both people and traffic – over the next 20 years
- Considerably more parking is needed if residential roads are to remain as such. A multi-storey car park at the station remains the best option but there are difficulties.
- Options for multi-level car parks could include Weydown Road and the BT site near the Town Centre
- A multi-level car park on the BT site would enable part of the existing Waitrose car park to be re-designated as communal space; would enable a green route through to the Town Meadow; and would provide adequate car parking for shoppers and commuters alike. A non-insignificant period of free parking for shoppers was discussed; it would help the continued retail life of the Town.
- Increase generally the ability of Haslemere to be a tourist destination; a gateway to the South Downs National Park as well as the Surrey Hills
- Encourage bicycle hiring, with electric charge points
- Improve junctions layout (Coomers; Junction Place) and signage to persuade through traffic (particularly heavy vehicles) to avoid the Town Centre
- Re-model the Station entrance to enable better and safer interchange
- Replace the Tesco traffic lights with appropriate alternative traffic control layouts.

DVR 24th October 2013 **Next Meeting: 30th October.**