

Cabinet – 24 March 2020**Item 7 – Hinckley Zone 4: Rugby Road and Town Centre Improvements**

The proposals fall almost entirely within my electoral division, though some of the changes will impact on Mr Mullaney, Mr Bill and Mrs Wright's patches too.

Junction improvements Rugby Road / Hawley Road / Westfield Road

Residents complain regularly about the long waits at this junction and I welcome the County Council's attention being given to it. Residents perceive that the junction flowed better when it was a roundabout and many want it reinstated. I raised this with officers during the consultation meeting and understand their modelling has looked at this. I would like confirmation that that this was explored as an option. I have some concerns about the no left turn proposed from Westfield Road and people in Rutland Avenue and Granby Road are worried about extra rat-running this will cause.

Junction improvements Rugby Road / Brookside

Generally I am supportive of the changes. I am grateful that officers have retained the trees on Rugby Road which were due to be lost in the first draft. I would ask cabinet to take into account the comments made by the local Borough members with relation to cycling and the need for box junctions near Hillside Road.

Granville Road changes

I support the closure of Granville Road. It is regrettable that the mature tree needs to be lost but am grateful to officers for trying to avoid it but understand it is not possible to retain it. I would ask that alternative trees are planted in the park.

Pedestrian Improvements Spa Lane / London Road.

I support these proposals. This falls right on the boundary of St Marys and De Montfort Divisions and Mr Mullaney has asked for his support to be noted too.

Residents Parking

As you will know I have been raising the need for residents parking in Hinckley town centre since my election to the Council 11 years ago, through questions to Council, petitions etc. It is the single biggest complaint I get in my councillor postbag. I am delighted that this is being looked at. Residents parking is controversial and therefore it is vital that a full public consultation be undertaken prior to implementation. I note that it is being proposed that Thornfield Way be excluded from the scheme. I would ask that should the remaining scheme be implemented that this be kept under review as residents in may feel differently when the impact of cars being displaced from surrounding streets is known.

Finally can I express my thanks to the highways officers for the manner they have sought to engage with both County and Borough members on this.

Stuart Bray CC
St Marys Electoral Division

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