

Stratford upon Avon Town Transport Group minutes of meeting by Zoom on Wednesday 8 July 2020

Present: Joe Baconnet [JB], Howard Blessington [HB], John Deegan [JD] *Chairman*, Elizabeth Dixon [ED] *Secretary*, Ian Fradgley [IF], Richard Freer-Hewish [RFH], Paul Harris [PH], Mark Haselden [MH], Tony Jackson [TJ], Phil Mills [PM], Richard Lees [RL], Theresa Parker [TP], Colin Stewart [CS], Jann Tracy [JT].

1. **Welcome:** John Deegan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Daren Pemberton [DP], Kate Rolfe [KR].

2. **Minutes** of 10 June 2020 were agreed.

3. **Town Centre Changes:** SR gave an update about the work done by WCC, reviews being done. Data recording equipment is being installed to count traffic and assess effectiveness of pedestrian social distancing. ED explained that without a bus stop in Bridge St. and others too far away some people are excluded from coming into town. JB said the intention was to create space as the businesses are the paymasters. The rest of the meeting was spent exploring ideas how the town centre could be improved, long term, as the existing scheme was not working for everyone. The following points arose:

- There was consensus that it should not go back to pre-Covid;
- However, JB stressed the current scheme is universally disliked by business. Footfall is being displaced to Maybird;
- Business access in Sheep street is a problem;
- M&S are concerned by the lack of footfall on their side of Bridge Street and lack of crossing;
- Tables, planters, flowers and banners will be installed on M&S side of Bridge Street;
- Delivery is seen as an issue for part pedestrianisation. Restricting delivery times would be OK for some businesses but not all;
- Timed closure of High Street was discussed - possibly at weekends only. JB said he considered timed closure of High Street would be a good outcome;
- Other options discussed included pedestrianisation of both High Street and Sheep Street - and possibly Bridge Street - to mirror Henley Street (which was initially a trial);
- JB has prepared some sketches for potential compromise solution.

4 The remaining Agenda items were deferred to the September meeting.

Next meeting: 10am Wednesday 9 September 2020.

