

Deputation Statement – Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 22 July 2015

Good evening my name is Debbie Payne and I am the secretary for Boscombe Business Association I am here with my chairman Mr Rob Logue. We have been asked to do this deputation on behalf of our members, regarding the new shared space in Boscombe.

At Last week's BBA meeting the following issues were raised as cause for concern and we would ask that the committee take these on board for improvement

On a positive note, the attendees of the meeting felt the shared space looked great and opened up the area in a light and bright way, however,

It has been noted on the days of rain, the roadway is slippery to walk on and for cars, many people at our meeting have witnessed, or in fact experienced, cars skidding on the surface and having to correct their steering. For both motorists and pedestrians this is not ideal and we would ask that the surface be looked at and a report on what can be done to prevent this, we have not had very bad weather to contend with either.

The bend by the pedestrian zone is very unclear as to what is road and what is pavement so much so that both able and disabled people are struggling with trip hazards. The business association would ask that we see the concerns of the disabled groups that were consulted on this project and what their reaction to the shared space is now. business owners in the area have seen disabled people in mobility scooters just ride straight out into the path of cars, almost tip up if they hit the kerbing incorrectly, partially sighted people are crossing on the inappropriate areas of the road as it has the raised pavements denoted a crossing area. .

At night the area has become a hazard for drivers with the drunk and drugged people just staggering into the path of oncoming vehicles.

Is there a possibility on the area around McDonalds and the Tardis having a few concrete balls used as they have been at the seafront, to denote a clear area for pedestrians and for traffic? They would be in keeping with the scheme and not look unsightly. We are aware there needs to be correct space for the land train to exit the precinct but still feel they could be used in a clever way to denote areas

There have been severe issues around parking after the bus stop on the stretch of road up to Iceland and signage was an issue here, even for the enforcement officers there wasn't anything to point to. This has been addressed by the new large signs on either end of the zone and one in the middle. We will monitor the parking and now see that giving out tickets in that area is acceptable, whereas prior to the signs it was unfair. The only confusion is with some of the small signs for loading areas; however, we recognise they are in keeping with the usual sign size.

BBA are keen to encourage the night-time economy in Boscombe in a positive way and one of the issues is lighting which is restricted in the Sea Road section of the pedestrian area. This is the main entrance and exit for the O2, KFC, Sugar and Spice, etc. yet it is a dark route for both cars and pedestrians. We ask that the council take this on board for future improvements