A Special Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 3rd October, 2018, at 7.00 p.m.


Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. G. Monk.

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk were in attendance.

(2018/19:281) Department of Infrastructure - Highways

Mrs. Kate Lord-Brennan, M.L.C., Department Member, Mr. Jeff Robinson, Director of Highways and Mr. Tim Cowin, Highways and Asset Management were in attendance for this section of the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.

Mr. Robinson thanked the Commission for the opportunity to be able to attend the meeting. Mr. Robinson advised that the Department were in the process of meeting with local authorities to develop a longer term strategic plan for each area.

Mr Robinson advised that the Minister had requested that the Commissions comments be sought in relation to proposals for future transport operations within the town.

The Chairman declared an interest.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the Commission would discuss the plans at a separate meeting and submit their views to the Department.

Mr. Robinson outlined the projects which are currently being worked on/planned by the Department in respect of Ramsey:

- Regeneration of the West Quay which would include the upgrading of the footpath on the property side and more robust sea defences. *In answer to a question from Mrs Wedgwood, Mr Robinson advised that repairs would be made to the current highway if it became unsafe.*
- Progressive replacement of the sea wall on the Mooragh Promenade taking account of the ASSI.
- Improved sea defences at The Vollan and Queen’s Promenade.
- The Talk of the Town site will soon have a made surface installed.
(2018/19:281) Department of Infrastructure – Highways continued

- Creation of a foot path/cycleway along the old railway line from Gardeners Lane to Poyll Dooey Road. This could form part of the Active Travel policy being adopted by the Department. Discussion ensued about possible Active Travel routes which highlighted the potential development of a safe route to schools from north Ramsey utilising the Whitebridge and former railway line, which route avoided major traffic junctions.
- Work required on the inner harbour viaduct wall at North Shore Road.
- Money set aside for refurbishment of the highways on housing estates. Brookfield Crescent was scheduled to be resurfaced in 2019/20.
- A parking study will be undertaken in 2019
- A Pedestrian Environment Review System [PERS] study is being scoped with consultants
- A base model of Ramsey is to be produced.

It was noted that some of the work at the Gooseneck had been undertaken with the road being open and traffic controlled by traffic lights. When asked why a similar approach could not be adopted to other road works on the Mountain Road Mr. Robinson outlined the reason the Department requested a full road closure when undertaking some schemes specifically where traffic flowed at higher speeds. Mr. Robinson advised that the Department will always consider whether a closure is required.

In response to a question regarding the proposed by-pass envisaged within the West Ramsey Development Plan, Mr. Robinson advised that the Department had no plans to progress such and that this would occur as and when the area was developed.

Mr. McGuinness suggested that the Department should improve the communication around road work schemes. Mr. McGuinness said that a scheme which had been well delivered, such as the recent Lezayre Road scheme, had been let down by the poor communications ahead of the project commencing.

DOI officers noted concerns about a number of road surfaces and routes.

The DOI Officers undertook to provide a written response to the questions had been raised in the submission for a Requisition Meeting.

Mr. Robinson thanked the Commissioners for their feedback and undertook to provide a summary of the points covered during the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Lord-Brennan, Mr. Cowin and Mr. Robinson for their attendance and they left the meeting at 8.10 pm.
(2018/19:282) Department of Infrastructure - Harbours

Mrs. Anne Reynolds, Director of Ports and Mr, Mark Kenyon, Ports Manager, joined the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Kenyon to the meeting.

Mrs. Reynolds thanked the Commissioners for the invitation to attend the meeting to outline the Department’s proposals to improve security at Ramsey Harbour. These measures were required to comply with International Maritime regulations.

Mrs. Reynolds advised that the measures are required where international sailings were being undertaken by vessels in excess of 500 tonnes. A passage between the Isle of Man and the United Kingdom or Ireland is considered to be international. A domestic passage would be between ports on the Isle of Man.

Mrs. Reynolds distributed plans of the proposed security measures being considered which were then discussed.

The proposed scheme had been designed to give as much access as possible to the users of the quay, and would be subject to a formal planning application.

The gates can be operated locally or remotely from the Marine Operations Centre, Cargo operations should not normally take place during the hours of darkness. It was noted that the gates would only need to be closed/secure when a vessel in excess of 500 tonnes was in port or cargo operations were taking place on the Quayside.

Mrs. Reynolds undertook to install a 3 metre section of the proposed fencing, which would stand 2 metres above existing road levels, so that Members could view it, and to advise when this was in place. Feedback is to be channelled through the Town Clerk to the Department. Commercial, leisure and residential users are being or will be consulted about the scheme.

Mr. Kenyon and Mrs. Reynolds gave an update on the current Shipyard operations which is now operated by Ports Division. Ramsey Shipping Company and the Ports Marine Section are now operating from the buildings. Further investment is required on the slipways although one has already been brought back into operation use.

The Talk of Town site will soon be upgraded with new services and lighting and will remain as boat trailer park as well as storage facility for fishing gear.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Kenyon for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:55 p.m., giving a time of 2 hours for payment of attendance allowances.

Chairman.