A Special Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in Town Hall, Parliament Square, Ramsey, on Tuesday 30th October, 2018, at 7.00 p.m.


Apologies for absence had been received from Canon N. D. Greenwood and Mr. W. L. Hankin.

The Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and Chief Technical Officer were in attendance.


Mr. Lee Smith, Street Lighting Engineer, Manx Utilities, was in attendance for this section of the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith presented a number of visual and video clips showing examples of lighting effects possible utilising LED and RGBW (colour change LED) technology, through the MUA’s primary lighting supplier Urbis Schreder. He explained that his intention was to obtain an indication of the direction the Commission wished to follow before preparing more detailed options.

The lighting options could highlight specific buildings or features or provide area lighting. Examples included award winning schemes which had transformed inner city areas previously avoided but now attracting footfall and generating economic activity.

Mr Smith explained that modern lighting and removal of festoon installations had been found to improve the visual aspects of a street scape giving a more open perspective. Members were in general agreement that the festoon lighting was tired and outdated, and noted its use only for a relatively short period during the year.

Mr. Smith outline cost options advising that systems with rapid changing lighting effects generally required cabling, and higher costs, but that slow change effects could be achieved with radio controllers. Although options to incorporate additional LED features in lighting heads existed the use of such fittings would be restricted where existing pillars are located close to buildings. It was envisaged that a lighting scheme might cost between £60-£100k depending on installation.

Mr. Smith outlined the use of GOBO projectors, explaining that in addition to being an expensive option they require fixing to rigid columns as any movement can ruin the projected image.

Members commented that the most obvious locations for the use of lighting effects would be areas which had benefited from regeneration and already had feature lighting; however they felt that more attention ought to be given to improve other areas in the town. Mr. Smith explained that the MUA was working with other authorities and that existing infrastructure could be relocated if re-useable.

Overall the Commission’s options ranged between more innovative columns, use of LED lighting technology and installations using GOBO’s.

Members agreed to give more consideration to the options presented and to consider future options further.

In response to questions Mr. Smith provided the following update on other lighting related matters:-

- Changes in working practice may result in changes to the maintenance contracts for future years. Contracts would also seek to reward authorities who were progressing a change to LED lighting heads to reflect the efficiencies resulting therefrom;
- The MUA is to continue arrangements to ship redundant Mercury containing fitting off island for disposal, the Commission has 10 of these units which are to be replaced;
- A further review of the structural condition of columns on South Promenade is to be undertaken and report provided;
- The condition of fittings on Lezayre Road where the lighting head is fitting inside the column is to be investigated;
- The MUA is trialling CMS technology which would provide greater management capacity, for instance in changing lighting times etc.

Mr. Smith was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Members discussed the presentation and agreed that it was important to differentiate between general lighting and the event specific Christmas lights. Members noted that for the current year the existing festoon and decorative panels were to be used, however felt that consideration should be given to removing the festoon lighting which is seen as unattractive when not in use and outdated. Members agreed that an opportunity existed to introduce lighting at the Mooragh Park which might make the area more attractive outside the Summer months.

Members asked the Chief Technical Officer to provide an update on the LED floor lighting in the lanes for which a quotation to upgrade the controller systems had been accepted.

Members agreed to investigate further options through other suppliers before considering the matter further.
(2018/19:308) MER Station

Members noted the Town Clerk’s Report consideration of which was deferred from the October meeting.

The Chairman outlined the options which the Department of Infrastructure had presented as early consultation with the Commission, explaining that neither option was fixed and that a general view on the subject of the extension of the MER line into the town centre adjacent to the Courthouse and the retention or replacement of the existing MER station building were sought. The proposals followed an earlier scheme, progressed with the support of the Commission, but which had failed to achieve planning consent.

The Department was seeking to achieve six main requirements:-

1) Retaining car parking spaces. The Plaza Car Park presently provides 43 spaces, the option in Plan 3 provides 46 spaces, and Plan 4 provides 32.
2) Providing covered storage to allow a tram and trailer to be stored overnight to allow a Ramsey morning service rather than driving a tram set all the way up from Douglas
3) Refreshing or updating the tram station and providing a gateway into the heart of Ramsey rather than the current situation, which is unattractive and does not guide a visitor into the town
4) Providing a bus station facility outside the TT course for TT/MGP/etc., when the mountain course is closed
5) The replacement of the tram station tracks, which are worn out and causing derailments
6) Providing a shunting area to swap the tram and trailer around

Two proposals were tabled by the Department, although further options could be considered. Members were concerned that the two options were in their view relatively similar, and felt that wider options may exist which could be worth of consideration. Members expressed the view that the scheme could provide an integrated solution for both bus and rail, noting that this might entail some loss of parking. Mrs. Quayle commented that parking in the town should be reviewed with a long term solution, perhaps incorporating decked or multi-storey development, should be sought. Mrs Wedgwood agreed that an alternative location for car parking should be considered.

Mr. Oldham questioned the necessity to provide a shunting area outside the existing site boundaries as he felt that this could be provided within that area albeit with some loss of parking.

Resolved: it was proposed by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed unanimously that the Commission should request further options in particular addressing shunting and canopy options which could incorporate a loss of parking on the site if beneficial to the overall scheme.

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk detailing a request that land below the former Grand Island Hotel site, intended to be transferred to the Commission as public open space, be utilised to host the relocation of rare and protected clover species from land adjacent to Ramsey Park Hotel.

Members felt that the proposal would place untenable restrictions and management obligations on the use of the site which was intended for recreation use.

Resolved: unanimously not to support proposals to relocate protected species to land below the former Grand Island Site.


The Town Clerk informed Members of an invitation from Captain Colin Douglas, Chairman Ramsey Branch Royal British Legion, on behalf of the of the Royal British Legion, to the Royal British Legion church service at Trinity Church, Waterloo Road, Ramsey on the 11th November 2018.

The service commences at 6.30 p.m. This year the theme of the service is Thanksgiving for the End of the Great War as well as Remembrance of those who gave their Lives so others May Live.

The meeting closed at 9:15 p.m., giving a time of 2½ hours for payment of attendance allowances.

Chairman.