

## Agenda Item 9

Forward Planning & Transportation  
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# Report

**Subject** : Proposed Enhancement of Wilton Market Place

**Report to** : Cabinet

**Date** : Wednesday 5 November 2008

**Author** : Head of Forward Planning and Transportation

**Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism:** Councillor Edge

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### 1. Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet on the current situation regarding the Wilton Market Place enhancement scheme. A second report will be circulated before the Cabinet meeting that will describe the outcome of the current round of public consultation and make recommendations concerning the implementation of the scheme.

### 2. Background:

- 2.1 On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008, Cabinet considered a proposal to carry out a scheme to enhance the Wilton Market Place. It was resolved:

*provided that the outcome of the consultation exercise is generally supportive of the proposed scheme, with the paving material changed to Yorkstone, and a satisfactory temporary relocation of the weekly market is achieved, the scheme for the enhancement of Wilton Market Place shown on the previously circulated plan be approved, for implementation between January and March 2009.*

- 2.2 Following the Cabinet meeting, a limited consultation exercise was conducted. A letter and plan outlining the proposed scheme were delivered to all the business and residential premises overlooking the Market Place. Copies of the letter and plan were also given to the traders attending the weekly market and a copy of each was erected in the Market Place itself. A deadline for comments of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008 was given. A second set of the letters and plans was delivered to nearby premises over the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> September 2008. A deadline for comments of 3<sup>rd</sup> October was given.



Awarded in:  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



- 2.3 The scheme set out for consultation involved the relaying and partial widening of the paved area around the Market Place in Yorkstone and the resurfacing of the car park in bitumen macadam. Improvements were also to be made to street furniture. Critically, it was proposed to close the car park and give the contractor possession of the site for the duration of a 12 week, January – March 2009, construction period. The market was proposed to be temporarily relocated to the Wilton Shopping Village, but no proposals were put forward to create replacement car parking spaces during the work.
- 2.4 At the end of the consultation period, 15 responses had been received. The majority of the responses were critical of the proposals, citing particularly the loss of car parking during the 3 month duration of the works and the intention to relocate the market to the Wilton Shopping Village, as well as commenting on possible alternatives to the scheme and the lack of direct notification of some respondents.
- 2.5 In response to the comments received, and following a discussion between officers and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Tourism, a Special Delegation report was prepared, which made five recommendations:
- a) The enhancement work to the Market Place should be carried out in two consecutive stages, allowing approximately half the car park to continue in operation during each phase;
  - b) The possibility of providing additional limited waiting car parking on North Street and elsewhere should be investigated and, if appropriate, a temporary change to the relevant Traffic Order should be advertised;
  - c) The proposal should be amended to include the relocation of the market to the area outside the Wilton Heath Centre. This arrangement to be subject to a temporary road closure being affected and the associated Road Traffic Order being advertised. The Head of Forward Planning and Transportation should write to the Practice Manager setting out the anticipated details of this arrangement and seeking her further views;
  - d) The Head of Forward Planning and Transportation should write again to all those people who responded to the consultation, seeking their further views on the amended proposals. A copy of the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation's letter should be sent also to the Wilton Town Council and erected in a prominent position in the Market Place and a period of two weeks allowed for comments;
  - e) A further report should be prepared when the investigations have been completed and the results of the consultation are known.
- 2.6 These recommendations were approved by the Leader and Portfolio Holder under delegated powers.

### 3. **The current situation:**

- 3.1 Upon investigation, it does appear feasible to keep open roughly half the Market Place car park throughout the implementation of the proposed scheme. As a minimum, this is likely to mean that about 10 spaces could remain available and at maximum, about 20 spaces. The present capacity is 29 spaces. In addition 10 additional, temporary on-street car parking spaces could be created on North Street, from the One Stop supermarket northwards. At worst, therefore, the net loss of car parking spaces in the centre of Wilton during the works could be about 7. At best there could be a net gain of about 3. The day-to-day position would obviously vary between the two extremes.
- 3.2 It is not now proposed to relocate the weekly market to the Wilton Shopping Village, but to move it just to the north-east of the Market Place, to the area outside the Wilton Health Centre. This suggestion has caused some concern to the Health Centre Practice Manager and officers have met her to review the options and ways of mitigating any temporary difficulties of obstruction, noise or disturbance. Officers believe that a solution can be found and an update on this issue will be given at the Cabinet meeting.

3.3 The Head of Forward Planning and Transportation has also written again to all previous respondents and to all other addresses to which consultation letters were previously sent. Market traders and the Town Council have been contacted and a copy of the present consultation letter has been erected in the Market Place for public inspection. The deadline for comments has been given as Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The outcome of the consultation exercise will be the subject of a separate report, to be circulated before the Cabinet meeting.

3.4 As a result of the need to consult further on aspects of the proposed scheme, it would not now be possible to undertake the work between January and March. The work would now start later, possibly in late February 2009, with completion in late May 2009. Every effort would be made to minimise disruption over the Easter period (Good Friday is 10<sup>th</sup> April 2009).

#### 4. **Conclusion:**

4.1 In light of comments received during the first consultation exercise, it has been necessary to suggest changes to the manner in which the Wilton Market Place enhancement scheme should be carried out. A further round of consultation, seeking a reaction to these changes, is underway and a further report on the outcome will be circulated. That later report will make recommendations about whether the scheme should go ahead, its final content and the arrangements for its implementation.

#### 5. **Implications:**

- **Financial** : None in relation to this report.
- **Legal** : None in relation to this report.
- **Human Rights** : None in relation to this report.
- **Personnel** : None in relation to this report.
- **Community Safety** : None in relation to this report.
- **Environmental** : None in relation to this report.
- **Council's Core Values** : Excellent service, Thriving economy, Protecting the environment.
- **Wards Affected** : Wilton