

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Tuesday 29 May 2012 at 6.35pm.

**Present :** Councillors: Brown, Matthews, McGregor, Robinson and Walters; non-voting: Councillor Sanderson

Martin Hayles was invited to attend to contribute to the discussions.

### **409 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Banks, Birch, Peacey-Wilcox and Wells

### **410 THE CUT**

This has been an agenda item for 10 – 12 years and only the Mural has so far been achieved. Originally a Scheme costing in the region of £70,000 was agreed, planning permission obtained and £60,000 ring fenced from the budget over a number of years towards the scheme. It was later decided to divert £20,000 of this fund towards the MUGA.

The present planning permission insists that work is started before 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

The main objectives for the scheme are:-

- 1 To relocate the loading bay outside the toilet block to open up the area.
- 2 To block pave the area from the loading bay to the High Street and place retractable bollards to prevent vehicle access between the hours of 10:00 – 18:00.
- 3 Soft Landscaping to screen the toilet block.
- 4 Additional circular seating with planters.
- 5 Provision of a Sail shaped awning
- 6 Soft Landscaping on both sides of the road.

Martin advised that Planning were very happy with the scheme and also Highways as it will prevent cars from reversing back into Denmark Road, as the new loading bay would be for commercial traffic only.

Much discussion took place about how to simplify the scheme to reduce overall costs and about the on-going problem of the existing retractable bollards, since the withdrawal of funding for this from the IW Council. It was agreed to scale down the costs of the scheme by phasing the project, for which planning approval has been granted - and a start has to be made, as above, at least 6 weeks before the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

Deferring the awning and circular seating from the original plan and focusing in phase 1 on the block paving and relocating the loading bay would enable the scheme to potentially be started but still achieve an improvement to the area.

It was also discussed about when to start the work to cause the least inconvenience to the traders and members of the public; it was suggested to look at Autumn or Spring only, with the latest start date being Autumn 2013 to comply with the planning permission.

Many ideas were discussed, with all agreeing to :-

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1 A meeting to be arranged with the Cowes Business Association, Cowes Town Council, IW Council (Highways Department) and the Safer Neighbourhood team to discuss the on-going issue of the bollards.
- 2 The Assistant Town Clerk to write to the Highways Department requesting a reduction in their £1,000 fee for the Traffic Regulation Order to move the loading bay site.
- 3 To seek quotations to engage a professional to : draw up a specification for a phased approach to the scheme prioritising the relocation of the loading bay and the block paving, act as a project manager and oversee the tendering process for the work requested.

(Meeting ended at 7.50pm)

**CHAIRMAN**