

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 28 OCTOBER 2021**

### **Question 1**

**From: Mr M Willmont, Hereford**

**To: Cabinet member, infrastructure and transport**

Recently, if I recall correctly, a Cabinet Member in discussing issues around the proposed transport hub at the Railway Station suggested that he would not want to see bus shelters in front of/obscuring the view of such an important Listed Building.

This being the case could the Council apply a similar approach to Shire Hall by removing the bus shelters in St Peters Square. These significantly obscure the view of the building and also are a major interference with events, primarily Remembrance Sunday, at the War Memorial. There is a sufficient covered waiting area by St Peters Church. Please remove the bus shelters by 14 November 2021.

### **Response**

Thank you for your question Mr Willmont, that is a very good question and I tend to agree with you.

Obviously the The Shirehall bus waiting facilities, including shelters and improved access for disabled people have been in place for many years. The location provides bus users, many of whom are elderly and with reduced mobility, with safe access to the bus network and some protection from weather when they are waiting for their service. It is important that access is available from the passenger side entrance to the vehicle and the 3 stands have been designed for this purpose – this would not be the case if access was relocated to the adjacent St Peters Church location and hence would not be acceptable in terms of basic health and safety requirements.

Whilst I cannot support your suggestion to pull the shelters down by the 14th of next month (although I appreciate your determination and optimism, even if your tongue is firmly in cheek) it will be possible to look at locations of waiting facilities as part of the City Masterplan project and consider alternatives which maintain convenient and safe access for bus users and also consider overall public realm benefits. I will specifically ask the team dealing with both the Hereford City Centre Improvement (HCCI) project and the broader belated City Masterplan, that is beginning to be drawn together, to consider removing the shelters from in front of The Shirehall to give the public the best view of The Shirehall, which, as you point out, is a heritage asset which deserves respect and appreciation. I am confident we can relocate the same shelters close by in a way that works well.

As we begin to draw our City and County masterplans together, if you have any other thoughts on such matters and aspects of the City's or market town's built environment your experience and knowledge would be much appreciated and you may write directly to me if that is helpful and you so wish, it certainly will be helpful to me.

## Question 2

**From: Mr P McKay, Leominster**

**To: Cabinet member, infrastructure and transport**

I have noticed that the map of DM Modifications is no longer available on the "Highways and public rights of way map" webpage. This was a useful map, showing what was, or was not, subject of Modification in an area, and I ask if you could confirm that it is Council policy to make such information available and check that it will be reinstated, perhaps as part of a Modification web page upgrade, with option to search from the map?

## Response

Thank you for your question, my officers have checked the system and the Map can be viewed through the Online Highways and Public Rights of Way Map (Proposed PROW Orders Tab) using the following link:

[Highways and public rights of way map – Herefordshire Council](#)

The routes highlighted in red shows applications for definitive map modification orders, and amendments to the List Of Streets. This mapping includes both current applications and those that have been resolved either by now being recorded on the Definitive Map or having been rejected on grounds of insufficient evidence. The map is searchable by Settlement, Road or Address.

Alternatively the definitive map modification order (DMMO) register can be viewed at:

[Definitive Map and Statement \(DMS\) – Herefordshire Council](#)

The register is searchable by Parish, Town or Village.

Hope this answers your questions adequately Mr McKay but happy to discuss further.

## Question 3

**From: Christine Price, Healthwatch Herefordshire**

**To: cabinet member, children and families**

I would like to ask the following question from healthwatch herefordshire in relation to the Children's improvement plan please.

The plan outlines a measure of success as 'what children and families tell us' and also on page 16 references 'service user groups'.

Can you outline who the SRO will be and who will implement engagement to gain feedback from children and families, what form this will take and how you will ensure it is continual, representative and effective.

## **Response**

The responsible officer will be the Director of Children's and Families who will oversee engagement with new and existing service user representative groups and work with relevant advocacy and support services in Herefordshire (including Healthwatch Herefordshire) to ensure that current and future engagement activities are representative and effective. It is our intention to develop and publish an engagement strategy early in the New Year.