

Environment & Economy Select Committee – 7 November 2017

Response to issues and questions Members have raised at the last meeting

Safety concerns and access arrangements

Regarding the issue of safety concerns and physical access to the market, including crossing points and speed limits, the Engineering Services Manager has provided the following response:

This issue has been looked at in the past but the fundamental issues remain the same, which would lead officers not to recommend formalised crossing points:

- The layout is very challenging. Since the closure of Woolworth (Wilko's) rear door all pedestrian traffic goes across the two corners. Crossing from the inside of a right angle bend to the outside of the bend gives poor visibility because pedestrians would have to crane their necks (especially at the north west corner to Park Place) to see what's coming. If the council put markings on the ground to indicate that pedestrians have a right of way across the road then it becomes more liable in the event of an accident.
- A raised platform ("speed table") across the street creates the same concerns but is impossible to detail as the ground is flush at the market entrances and kerb height elsewhere. Any such platform would thus be tilted towards the market throwing surface water into the entrances.
- Also we have no evidence of speeding on which to base an investment into traffic calming measures. It is virtually impossible for traffic to speed at a right angle bend and I would be surprised if vehicles gathered substantial speed along the short straights of Market Square.

If Members are still minded to go ahead with this recommendation and the Executive Portfolio Holder agrees to go ahead with an investigation, then officers could design crossing points (£200 technical assistance), and get HCC's Team to carry out a Safety Audit (£800) and we could arrange a speed survey for a similar amount. But in the officers opinion the Council will be spending money to no avail.

Discussion with Wilko regarding opening their rear door

Regarding the issue of approaching Wilko to discuss the possibility of reviewing access arrangements via their rear door, Officers met with the Wilko Store Manager over the summer to move this forward and after a follow up email have been informed that the company are in a restructuring consultation period, so until this ends, no opportunities like these will be entertained. They are due to end consultation the internal consultation period in November, at this point the store Manager will raise this issue again with their head office.

Discussion regarding the step/plinth size in the market

The Garages and Markets Manager, Carlo Perricone asked the Markets and Estates Officer to measure the average step size going into stalls in the Indoor Market are between 5 inches to 6 inches. The biggest step is 7 ½ inches and the smallest is 2 ½ inches.