

Christchurch Town Centre – proposed enhancements

Comments by Charles Clark, resident of Mundeford:

I appreciate that outside consultants can provide an objective view of the town centre, but they must take account of realities. Scant regard appears to have been made for existing traffic flows. The following comments are based on Board 3 – ‘Access and Movement’

- 1) The by-pass, Fountain roundabout and Barrack Road is the A35, the major alternative route into the Bournemouth/Poole conurbation, always busy and the more so when the A31/A338 route is blocked.
- 2) As it is, the relatively free-flowing Fountain roundabout nevertheless presently sees traffic tailing back along the by-pass, beyond the Burton roundabout. If it were to be replaced by a cross-road with traffic lights, and particularly lights with all-red periods for pedestrians to cross, the tail back is likely to extend back to the Cat & Fiddle. It is no use making the town more attractive to tourists if they cannot get here!
- 3) The proposed cross-road removes the ability to access the by-pass/Waitrose car park from the East (u-turning is unlikely to be allowed). This will hit Waitrose – a present jewel in the town’s crown (and my favourite shop). A possible solution would be to retain as a complete roundabout the eastern end of the ‘peanut’.
- 4) Even with present traffic levels and especially when the by-pass is grid-locked, locals (at least) use the alternative route through the town – Bridge Street, Castle Street and the Wick Lane/Church Lane one way system. This is usually busy and the ‘access to be discouraged’ should be the pedestrians, not the traffic.
- 5) So saying, I can see some argument for semi-pedestrianising the High Street, as long as buses (and taxis?) are allowed through and provision is made for delivery lorries to reach the shops – maybe at limited times of the day.

It generally appears that the proposals were made in haste, without proper research of the area and its present uses, and with far too short a consultation period. I therefore accept them, as implied on the web site, as preliminary proposals and look forward to the revised version in due course.



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