

## Meeting with Council leadership 31st July 2024 9am-10am

Present: councillors Kevin Guy, and Manda Rigby, FoBRA Chair, vice Chair and Traffic lead.

1. We agreed that the emergency response to the incident on Monday afternoon 29th July on Stall street was extremely professional and impressive.
2. Weed control and heritage stone assets in the city: we discussed how the pervasive weed roots are starting to damage historic stone bases, kerb stones and walls. The new hot foam system is very labour intensive. Fixmystreet is working well in general, but it is the areas slightly out of the small city centre core which are seeing some damage to the stonework. We asked if residents could organise themselves and volunteer to use the hot foam system to help alleviate pressure on the council team . You agreed to explore options. We will forward some photographs of the issues that we are noticing.
3. Update on our meeting with planning policy team re Local plan: Richard Daone and Stephen George met with our team and explained the reasons for the new Local Plan options process proceeding at pace. Our team appreciated the explanation and shared our concerns re SPDs allowing Developers too much flexibility to evade compliance with the local plan. Also, our concerns re development of green belt.
4. Update on traffic movement plan and clarification on active travel consultation. You explained that the movement plan will most likely be out for consultation by end of the year or early 2025. We sought clarification on definitions in the active travel plan of “quiet routes” and “quick routes”. You confirmed that there is no definitive set of rules for each term, but it is now standard expressions for different types of traffic priorities. Regarding the JNZ forum Ceris raised the format for these meetings being based on “Townhall format” , you confirmed that this may change going forward. Again, due to local plan development these projects are being run in parallel but you reassured us that Officer teams are collaborating. We did note that this does make meaningful resident consultations harder because we see each consultation in a vacuum.
5. Noise policy in the city - in particular the points we raised previously re the changes in policy for the council controlled spaces such as parks and busking locations and the redaction of the previous policy thresholds which provided guidelines and transparency for residents and organisers: you confirmed that there is a street policy being developed for more clarification on this for city centre noise levels. We reminded you that we would like to see a return to objective thresholds for decibel levels and cumulative impacts so that residents and organisers have clearer guidelines for council-controlled areas such as parks. Our question is can we simply return to previous guidelines for council-controlled spaces/events?
6. Street parties - increased road closure costs. One of our members informed us that these costs had increased , we will seek clarification of the facts on this and send through to you for your thoughts.

We thanked the Councillors for their time.