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Businesses raise urgent concerns

An application for parking bay suspension on broad street for 6th, 7th and 8th June for filming was received. As soon as this came to my notice I contacted Winchester City Council to establish who had ensured that the local businesses were fully informed. This had not taken place. I contacted the businesses in person to establish how they felt and inform them of the application in full. After a lot of work and discussions with the parking team and the film location manager, we managed to get reduction on the loss of parking blocked. This should never have happened without consultation. The town needs the parking to keep businesses going and they suffer terrible when it's blocked.



On -Street parking - Hampshire County Council has confirmed that consultation will take place before decisions are made. I met with Cllr Rob Humby , Leader of Hampshire County Council (HCC) who has kept economy in his portfolio. I raised the concerns about this and Cllr Humby has agreed to a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and businesses to listen to concerns. Whilst businesses recognise that things will potentially change in order to get enforcement in the town as Winchester City Council (WCC)are not investing in this and the lack of enforcement has been frustrating for many residents and businesses. WCC has dropped their service level by 30% , something that should not have dropped by more than 1%. At present they have 3 traffic enforcement officers for the entire district. I have always opposed parking metres and it will not be an easy situation with Car parks managed by WCC and on-street by Hampshire. Enforcement obviously needs to be funded and a balance needs to be carefully managed.

Safety concerns raised by residents

I called an urgent meeting to discuss the lack of cutting in the town again and areas of concern over safety and visibility. A new team is working our area and they are equally concerned about the lack of visibility, safety issues for them and residents and that the town looks a mess in some places. I also raised areas with them that had not been cut all year and had been accidentally missed on the agreed cutting sites. The team also informed me that they are constantly stopped by residents who are also unhappy. I am still receiving calls about this and have never thought that any project areas or reduced cuts should be at junctions. As a market town we need to be presentable, safe and not put equipment or people at risk.

Bishop's Sutton footpath

I had received several calls about the path again and raised an application for cutting. I am pleased that this was cut back. However, as I was walking to the Bishop's Sutton fete, I took some more pictures. I raised this at a meeting with Hampshire County Council leader Cllr Rob Humby and the lack of replying from the lead officer. He has agreed to attend a meeting regarding this to try and get some questions resolved.

