

August 24th Community Liaison Group meeting:

General update on progress to completion of phase 1:

- **Student accommodation** is being handed over to the management company CRM Students on Wednesday 26th August. Students will begin to move in during September.
- **Premier Inn:** Due to complete work end of Sept to 1st week October. Premier Inn then have their fit-out time to complete their kitchen and restaurant. No information on when the hotel might open.
- **Central boulevard area and Building E** (lower building of shops and flats that backs onto Elms Parade) – work on the paving is due to complete by mid-September and the area fully opened up with fencing moved back to the front of the buildings and landscaping completed.
- **Lloyds Chemist and Chancellors** estate agents are fitting out their units and will move by 28th September.
- There are discussions with a restaurant but no details at the moment while agreements being discussed.
- A farmers market has been agreed for Saturdays, no start date announced as yet.

Closure of Chapel Way:

From 7th September vehicles will no longer be able to use Chapel Way off Westminster Way. Access to Elms Parade and the temporary parking area for Lloyds and Chancellors temporary portakabins will be via West Way and Elms Parade. This is in preparation for phase 2 of the development. Look out for signs and maps of alternative routes coming from SDC soon.

Pedestrian Zone

- Mace have agreed to update the signs to make it clearer. The area is a pedestrian zone 10am to 4pm, 7 days a week (not 24 hours a day).
- The times were agreed by the Planning dept at Vale of White Horse District Council. The reasons given were that these were the busiest times and comply with the needs for servicing and deliveries to the shops. There is a loading bay alongside Tesco. The permitted hours for deliveries are 7am to 10am for Tesco, 6pm to 8pm for Iceland.
- Asked if it could be fully pedestrianized except for deliveries and emergency vehicles. This would need taking up with the planning officer as it's following what was recommended when the planning permission was granted.
- In response to people parking up alongside Tesco that is a loading bay not a parking area. Savills will monitor and add signage if needed.

Parking, fees and fines:

- Mace own the land so it is now private land. The parking company Smart Parking operate the car parks and issue the fines. Income from parking fees

and fines go to Smart Parking. They put in the infrastructure including ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) cameras.

- For the first month any vehicles caught on camera in the pedestrian zone when they shouldn't be will receive a warning by letter. That 1 month is up on 2nd September so fines will be issued for anyone driving in the pedestrian zone after that date.
- **Evening car park charges:** Reason for high car parking after 2 hours is to discourage people parking all day and getting bus into town. But in the evening this isn't an issue and the high charges could put off people from using Seacourt Hall or restaurants. Mace has now submitted a case for free parking 6pm to midnight. This is with the planning authority for review and will go out for consultation. Any support is appreciated so we can get the free evening parking for the benefit of the night-time economy. Look out for information on this coming up for consultation.

Safety around car park entrance/exit onto Westminster Way

Some concerns raised about safety to pedestrians crossing in front of the car park entrance/exit on Westminster Way and cars coming out too fast not seeing pedestrians. They have added temporary signs but will be putting in a large speed bump this week just before the exit.

Ground maintenance, landscaping, paving etc.

- The grounds will be maintained by Savills and is under a 1 year warranty from SDC to fix or replace anything.
- There will be 3 ramps as well as steps between levels in the central area.
- Crossing from Elms Parade to Barclays will be a bit further up towards Tesco as safer to cross one road rather than sort of crossing 2 at the junction with Elms Parade.
- In answer to concerns about pavement/curb levels and not clear enough they said that they complied with the design standards that passed planning permission which includes review by Equalities Officer.
- Question about whether cyclist have to dismount – yes they should – there are no signs but if it becomes a problem they can put up posters.

General security:

The Student accommodation has 24 hour reception coverage for security. CCTV is in place throughout the site and monitored out of working hours.