

Bilston East Neighbourhood Partnership
Environment Group –Special Meeting on Dudley Street closure objection
21st May 2007

Simon Lucas outlined the proposals regarding the Dudley Street closure including the associated measures. This included the construction of a road from Bankfield Road leading to Dudley Street junction, traffic lights at the Black Country route/Bankfield road junction and a roundabout at the Bankfield road /Dudley Street junction.

The implications of the objection being sustained would involve Simon Lucas informing the Government Office for the West Midlands who would then initiate a Public Inquiry. This would result in delaying the BUV developments by at least 3 months.

The Group indicated they were not happy with the proposals and reaffirmed their objection to the proposed Dudley Street closure.

The following points were made to support their views.

- The proposals did not address the concerns about increased traffic that would result from the new road layout.
- Opening the road from Bankfield Road to Dudley Street from the Morrison's superstore exit would inevitably lead to an increase in the volume of traffic.
- There were no apparent proposals to address the issue of increased HGVs using the Dudley Street to service Morrison's.
- The implications of the increase traffic using the Salop Street/Highfields Roads had not been considered.
- The group were concerned that when work begins on the scheme that contractors are clearly communicated with by Bilston Regeneration to ensure that access on both footpaths and crossings were managed properly in order to ensure safe access of pedestrians around work areas.
- There would be an increase in coaches using the new leisure facilities running from local schools. There should be some consideration regarding turning circles and parking for these larger vehicles.

A number of suggestions were made by members of the Environment Group.

1. • The Group felt that appropriate maps had not been made available to enable the proposals to be considered in the context of the whole area.
2. There was a request for details on the proposed mitigation measures that had been referred to in the meeting.
3. A request for information emanating from previous surveys that had been carried out as part of the leisure and health facilities proposed on the site.
4. The Group felt they should have sight of the relevant traffic reports, including a copy of the traffic modelling report that Simon Lucas had made reference to in the meeting.

5. There were some specific suggestions regarding alternative road layouts that would address some of the traffic concerns affecting the area.
- Re-open Bankfield Road, one way up to Salop Street. Implement a traffic controlled system at the Salop Street/ Bank Street junction in conjunction with a pedestrian crossing. This would be complemented by a widening of Highfields Road from Salop Street to Dudley Street junction to enable a right turn filter and traffic lights at the Dudley Street junction. This would need some consideration regarding the car parking outside the shops at the junction. There was a request to limited access to Baldwin Street to prevent 'rat-running' in the area.
 - Another suggestion was to make Bankfield Road and the new adjoining road, one way only into the Black Country Route thereby preventing traffic from Morrison's.

The Group would report the sustained objection back to the Partnership in June and will then reconsider their position at the next Special Environment meeting on 25th June 2007. (6.30pm at the Lunt Community Centre)