

Item 9 - Western Dorset Growth Strategy Action Plan

Statement from Cllr Care Sutton – Rodwell Electoral Division

Because of the unacceptable levels of pollution on Boot Hill I have a particular interest in the proposal at T 1.5 about HGV re-routing along the A354 corridor. Given the health implications for local residents, I hope this will be prioritised, and that, pending changes to the Wyke Road mini-roundabout, the option of diverting all HGVs in both directions along Lanehouse Rocks Road as well as the option of diverting southbound traffic only that way is considered. The 'measures' might include pollution as well as journey times both on Boot Hill, but also on Lanehouse Rocks Road.

I'd also like to give an enthusiastic welcome to the proposals for Weymouth Town Centre, especially the overall aims of a better environment for pedestrians and also cyclists, reduced vehicle traffic and more use of public transport. I hope that somehow the bus interchanges can be made to be easily accessible to rail passengers. For our tourist businesses to succeed we need to improve the look and feel of the town centre, and do more to exploit the potential of the harbour by integrating the two sides.

Given that Weymouth & Portland have the lowest wages and highest levels of unemployment in the DCC area, and that many local residents feel our town centre looks and feels neglected, I sincerely hope that, with limited resources, investment into our town is prioritised over investment into other towns which are more prosperous and less dependent on and in need of the tourist £.

The infrastructure improvements mentioned here for Weymouth adds up in total very roughly to expenditure of the order of £30m. This investment is welcome, but not if it is at the expense of ordinary maintenance. It seems to be very difficult to get the small scale things that are important to residents done – fixing potholes, making small changes to on street parking, renewing yellow lines, repairing unsafe pavements. These things are not just important to residents, they are important too in making the town attractive to visitors and improving its overall look and feel. I appreciate that money is tied up in different budgets, but hope that some financial ingenuity can be exercised to ensure we look after the basics as well as provide excellent new developments.