From: [redacted]
To: David Bartlett
Cc: Brian Lucas; Stewart Blackmore; Billy Hill; Leigh Geddes; Stewart Blackmore; Jason Mack; Dave Logan
Subject: Objection to Pedestrian area in Ventnor
Date: 23 April 2018 20:08:33

Dear Town Councillors

As a Ventnor resident I would like some further information regarding the proposal to Pedestrianise Ventnor High Street and each of your opinions on this scheme? I will consider these responses and hope to attend any future meetings as well as take these views into account if we get a further Local Election as you do represent the whole of Ventnor and not just the residents in the town centre?

I and other friends and family signed a petition in the town to opposing this however I have seen nothing more regarding this matter. I have not received any literature regarding any further meetings or consultations or details of your plans and suspect this may be the case for most residents not living in the immediate vicinity.

I have today searched the internet and found a series of slides which I feel are quite biased in favour of the development however I am unable to find the whether this scheme has come from proposals from the Local Authority or the Town council and certain interested residents or from a combination of all parties I have just mentioned. Perhaps you would be able to clarify the source of the scheme? I am also unable to locate the exact details of the scheme and how this is to be funded. Please can you clarify these points and provide a link to material other than the slides that I located?

Please can you also provide me with details of any past and future meetings and how and when these have been publicised? If details have been distributed by post or by hand please can you send details of the number of letters printed and posted by royal mail and in person and provide full details of how you have consulted so far and how you intend to in the future?

As you will appreciate with the limited information available and the bias which I feel there is in your slides I am extremely concerned.
My views on the scheme are that

1. It has the potential to drive both local residents and tourists out of town
2. The impact will not just be on the small business but also the supermarkets that some of the less mobile or non drivers use
3. Those residents living away from the town, for instance in the East polling district and far West will think twice about a trip to visit local shops. Shanklin is definitely seeming more accessible which is a shame for the local shops and businesses
4. There seems little possibility of creating a thriving tree lined boulevard in the building enclosed high street as suggested in the benefits of pedestrianisation and do the residents want people eating an drinking on tables and chairs in the

street. Recipe for disaster in Ventnor?

5. There will be an impact on the already limited parking for attending Doctor and GP appointments or visiting the shops.
6. This will not benefit the less able as unless they live in the immediate area the bus stops at Town hall, Central Car park and the Old Rex Cinema are not within easy walking distance.
7. This is not going to increase the footfall in the town and people will not be encouraged by your publicity/slides to seek a café culture outside the charity shops in the town

Perhaps you could explain the organised cultural events that you plan to hold as some events actually drive people away from the Town.

I can not support something which I feel has not been properly consulted upon, seems shrouded in secrecy and appears to take into account the needs of only a small minority of residents and businesses.

Ventnor is quirky and beautiful and you do not need to close the main route for accessing the shops and businesses to improve trade. Keep the quality shops and limit the charity shops. Talk t0 businesses starting up - do I not remember small business being encouraged to take space in Salisbury gardens. What has happened with that and how is that helping to reduce our Council tax which due to the parish precept is one of the highest on the Island.

I look forward to your replies, and details of any future meetings. I appreciate you may feel my points are biased as well but with the limited information and no consultation reaching my door I have felt compelled to seek some answers.

[redacted]