

Ryde Interchange

On 6th October 2021 an Isle of Wight Council consultation event was held to communicate information about the plans for the new interchange at Ryde Esplanade. The consultation took the form of a drop in session during which IWC Officers were available to give technical details and explain some of the finer points of the new scheme.

Copies of the latest plans were available for public viewing and IWC Officers were on hand to answer questions.

RTC Officers facilitated the event and were on hand to collect public responses which they have used to help inform the Town Council's comments on the scheme.

Public responses were recorded on a Survey form and a summary of those survey forms is included below:

Street Furniture			
Stainless Steel	Black Painted	Stone Furniture	No Preference
1	2	4	3
Pier Tramway			
Stainless Steel	Black Painted	No Preference	
0	6	3	
Planting			
Native Planting	Seafront Themed	No Preference	Comments
4	3	2	2 Low water demand
Road Surface Materials			
Black tarmac	Coloured surface	Concrete Imprint	No Preference
2	3	1	3
Pedestrian Paving			
Academy Grey	Block Paving	Tegula Style	No preference
2	2	1	2
Pedestrian Greenery/Paving			
Majority Green	50/50 Mix	Majority Paving	No Preference
8	0	0	1
Kerbing			
Precast Concrete	Conservation Style	No Preference	
0	6	2	

The main findings in the table show a firm support for keeping a maximum amount of real green space ie not paved and that the pier should retain the style which matches the existing, in addition paving should be conservation style.

Along with the results of the survey members of the public also left various comments regarding the scheme as a whole. I have listed below any relevant points and ideas raised in these comments. Please see below for details:

New Toilets

The existing toilets on Western Gardens are open from dawn until midnight and the proposal for the new toilets should endeavour to maintain the same opening times.

The survey results agree with this position although they would suggest some protection for the toilets regarding opening etc might be achieved through the planning process. There should also be continuity of service of the toilet facilities during the alterations.

Traffic Safety

Concerns were raised regarding the following:

- Speed of traffic up George Street
- Pedestrian issues crossing the road at Dover Street roundabout.
- Vehicle emissions

Parking

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of disabled and motorcycle parking. Provision could be made for dedicated mobility scooter parking with charging facilities.

General Public Comments

Other issues were raised regarding the scheme and some of these are listed below:

- Provision of covered shelters with seating at bus stops.
- Direct surface water drainage to Ryde Harbour.
- Traffic lights for cars exiting the Pier to aid traffic flow.
- Planting to be Bee/ Insect friendly

Councillors Comments

2 councillors provided feedback, 1 felt that it may be necessary to guarantee that local businesses which are going to be negatively affected by the works should be able to seek compensation and the other was worried about how much of Western Gardens was going to be lost to the new interchange proposals.