

BID CLIFTON VILLAGE REQUESTS A DELAY ON THE RPS CONSULTATION

BUSINESSES RAISE SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT RPS

On 23RD September BID Clifton Village had its first opportunity to debate the intended RPS scheme with BCC. They were invited to give their feedback and email concerns to BCC and these would be acknowledged within 15 days – but the meeting only allowed 11 days until the end of the consultation phase!!

CONSULTATION INVOLVES A TWO WAY FLOW OF INFORMATION AND OPTION EXCHANGE and it would appear that BCC are denying this opportunity to both businesses and residents.

THE PROPOSED PAY & DISPLAY BAYS COULD SEE A REDUCTION OF 35% OF SHOPPERS/VISITOR PARKING TO THE VILLAGE . In the proposed RPS for Clifton Village BCC are failing to recognise that at the heart of the village there are over 300 business that contribute to the vibrancy and lifeblood of the community. More consideration must be given to all businesses in the RPS proposal. Clifton is both a tourist destination, a shopping area full of independent shops and also a thriving business community. Through BCC's actions shoppers are more likely to migrate to Cribbs Causeway with free parking and to Cabot Circus where there is sufficient car parking and an efficient bus service.

99% of those surveyed feel there should be less residential permit parking in the Village with more pay and display and business permit parking

CLIFTON IS IN DANGER OF LOSING MANY LONG STANDING & REPUTABLE BUSINESSES.

It is alarming that BCC promotes a scheme without ensuring there are adequate alternatives in the form of access to, or parking in the Village e.g. improved bus services from the east and west, park and ride options from Long Ashton and Shirehampton, etc . In failing to seek alternative forms of transport into the Village ahead of implementing RPS, BCC are not exercising sufficient duty of care to the business community and their staff.

BUSINESSES ARE WORRIED AS TO HOW TO MAINTAIN THEIR STAFFING LEVELS.

80% of the feedback from the RPS survey highlights that getting staff to and from work is a major issue should the proposed RPS come into being. Two businesses with over 130 staff are considering relocating to where there is adequate parking unless this is resolved. The impact of this alone to other businesses in Village will be colossal.

CLIFTON CANNOT AFFORD TO LOOSE ITS BUSINESS DIVERSITY AND EXPERTISE.

BCC are proposing to review the scheme after 6 months of operation. INDEPENDENT TRADERS & BUSINESSES DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF WAITING 6 MONTHS TO SEE WHAT THE IMPACT OF THE SCHEME WILL BE – FEEDBACK INDICATES WITH REDUCED PARKING THERE WILL BE AN IMMEDIATE AND DETRIMENTAL AFFECT ON THE SURVIVAL OF MANY BUSINESSES.

BBC yesterday announced to BID CV that they are completing a further survey to better understand the figures relating to parking in the Village (we have only 3 days of the consultation phase remaining).

How can businesses make an informed decision when such key information about the impact of RPS is not available. Surely BCC should not be closing the consultation period as they clearly recognise there is a need for further clarification.

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