

12 JULY 2007

NOTICE OF MOTION

OPTIONS FOR NEW ROAD

“This council notes the excellent redesign and regeneration of New Road, and congratulates the Architects, council officers and others involved in the project’s design and implementation.

The redesign has resulted in increased pedestrian/leisure use of the street and has proved popular with the public and businesses alike. An Evening Argus web poll showed an 80%+ approval rating for the modifications, with support for permanent pedestrianisation.

This council notes the project’s original intention was to trial New Road as a ‘shared space’ road, where vehicles were tolerated but not given automatic priority over other road users. However, since the completion of the works, and following several successful open air events staged during the road closure, people have come to recognise the value and popularity of a car-free environment, evidenced by an increased enthusiasm for pedestrianisation.

Therefore, without compromising the original commitment to use New Road as a ‘shared space’ project, this council would welcome a report and options paper considering alternative New Road operations to be submitted to the Environment Committee for discussion.

This council resolves that any such report takes account of competing needs for access, balanced against the potential for increased leisure space that pedestrianisation may offer.

Proposed by: Cllr Keith Taylor

Seconded by: Cllr Ian Davey

