



MEETING WITH THE BUSINESSES FROM SAVILE STREET & GEORGE STREET AREA
4TH APRIL 2007, LEVEL, SAVILE STREET

PRESENT

Steve Marsay	Debenhams
Rob Nicklas	Thearne Pet Store
Kevin Priestley	Hull City Council
Mike Killoran	Princes Quay
Ken Baldwin	Hull City Centre BID

Businesses in attendance:

Hugh Rice	Hugh Rice Jewellers
Eric Silver	Leonard Silver Menswear
Sue	Browns Books
Steve Rowe	Classic
Mr Elghamrawi	Ollys
Mark Read	Read's Footwear
Kirsty Lee	Urban Angels
Vic Golding	Golding Computers

Points Raised:

- 1. Traffic Wardens and Parking**
- 2. Cleaning**
- 3. Empty Shops**
- 4. The development plans for Albion Square**
- 5. Better marketing of the Savile St / George St area**

1. The issue of car parking and traffic wardens was raised, at present when shoppers come into Hull City Centre they can park for a minimum of two hours, the majority of retailers feel that the minimum time should be at least 3 hours and the new traffic wardens patrolling the streets are not helping the situation. We need to offer the shoppers more choice and variety of where to park in the city centre.

The public do not perceive this town as car friendly, if they park on a meter they are targets for the traffic wardens if the car is parked incorrectly (outside of the white lines) and receive a ticket.

When people come into the city centre they head straight for easy parking places such as Princes Quay. George St car park has on average 250 free spaces every day, the Prospect Centre car park is always half empty and so is Pryme St car park, and when St Stephens opens later on this year this will bring an extra 1500 car parking spaces. Unfortunately Hull is an ancient, historical city where there is only a certain amount of space to park.

The Park & Ride system at Priory Park is excellent; would it be possible to have a Park & Ride on the North & East of the city?

The council are looking at Park & Ride on the North and East sides of the city centre.

It was asked if the council could look at the car parks and the charges – because if there are spare car parking spaces why the car parks can't be made cheaper?

Lincoln BID have a car parking strategy whereby they have done a deal with the car parks on the outskirts of the city centre and offered these car parking spaces to the city centre workers

for a discounted rate, thus freeing off the car parks in the city centre to allow visitors to park in them.

Hull City Centre BID has put forward the following proposals to Hull City Council in their new Transport Strategy:

1. Car parks to stay open longer on a night
2. 3 hours car parking – not two hours

these are both in the melting pot at the minute, as well as these possible measures we need to try to get more people to use the new bus & rail interchange at St Stephens (when it opens), and the council are phasing in new directional signage over the next couple of years that will help to identify the car parking spaces available.

Another option that is being looked at by the council is a yearly parking permit, whereby a transponder will be put in your car and even when the car park is closed the barrier will lift.

The traffic wardens are now targeting disabled people; the disabled parking bays in Savile St are difficult to manoeuvre into to park due to the white lines and bollards. The traffic wardens are regularly patrolling this area and giving tickets to unsuspecting drivers if they are a small amount over the line.

This issue will be taken up with Cllr Collinson, but where do you draw the line on how far over the parking line a person is before they get a ticket?

2. The cleaning team has been out and about in the pedestrianised areas of the city centre getting rid of graffiti and chewing gum. We will be extending their schedule to include George St. The BID team will keep the businesses updated on the cleaning, if there is any issue please contact the BID team directly.

3. There are lots of empty units down George St, the BID are going to introduce Empty Unit Management, whereby we will approach the estate / letting agents to gain permission to enter the premises and display graphics of what is going on in Hull, this will also include listings of the different events / festivals. The windows and outsides of the shops will also be cleaned and painted to make them look presentable.

There have been shutters on shops down George St, one of the shops was made to take the shutters off, and once this had happened the windows on this shop were smashed. The reason the shop had to remove the shutters was because it possibly didn't have planning permission for them.

4. Development plans for Albion Square – once the bus & rail interchange at St Stephens opens the temporary bus station at Albion Square will be returned to a car park, this will help the city centre with additional car parking over the Christmas 2007 period.

Long term development of this area is unknown, this is a large site in the central area of our city centre, whatever happens to this site it will affect Savile St & George St. The old Co-op building and Edwin Davis buildings have been sold.

5. Better marketing of the Savile St / George St area is needed, it was asked if we could use banners to identify Savile St e.g. 'Savile St Traders Welcome You.' At the time that the lamppost banners were being installed, the lampposts in Savile St were too small to hang them onto.

Hull BID have recently commissioned unique pictorial maps of the city centre, these will be high quality maps that show all areas and buildings of interest, these will clearly identify Savile St & George St. On the back of the maps there will be a listing of the nine BID areas, each area will have defined places of interest, shopping and eating out, these maps will be available from dispensers in the main car parks throughout the city centre, tourist information centre, hotels and other main visitor attractions.

It was asked if the BID could possibly work with the Hull Daily Mail to ask them to post a questionnaire on their website to see why the general public don't use Hull City Centre, at the same time we need to try to change the perception that the city centre is unsafe and dirty.

The BID is organising events throughout the city centre to try to draw people into the city centre i.e. Farmers Markets and Food Festivals once people are in the city centre they realise that the perceptions are not necessarily true.