

PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IDEA FOR COUNCIL

Associations plan for future

C.T. 1964

BOLD plans for new main roads, more and bigger car parks and a pedestrian precinct in the High Street, Christchurch, are put forward by Christchurch joint committee of ratepayers' associations. Their plans are in answer to a request from the Council for their views on how the Buchanan Report on Traffic in Towns should be implemented.

The committee has sent to the Council a comprehensive report of the ideas of its five constituent associations. These are the result of study by committees formed by each of the associations.

Professor Colin Buchanan and his team in their recently published report, gave their views on how towns should cope with the vast increase in traffic foreseen for the next decade. They suggested complete segregation of cars and pedestrians, bigger car parks and redesigning of roads.

Among suggestions to the Council are:—

Main roads: These should avoid the congested main streets of Bournemouth, Christchurch, Highcliffe and Milton. A 30ft. road should be built from Willett Cross on the Corfe Mullen - Wimborne road, through Oakley, Bear Cross, Parley, Hurn, Christchurch by-pass (at Stony Lane), Cat and Fiddle, Hinton House, Stem Lane, then via Gore Road, New Milton to the A.337. Jumpers Residents' Association, suggesting this, say most of the road exists, but is not linked.

Car parks: Envisaged are a bigger park at Sopers Lane; a park on Priory Church land and others near Elkins Boatyard, behind shops on both sides of the High Street (along two service roads), behind shops in Bargates, on spare ground in Willow Way, behind shops in Lymington Road, Highcliffe, between Beaconsfield Road and the Mill Stream, extension of Pit Site car park along Bargates, a park on the garden of cottages between Wick Lane and Whitehall and a new park in Bure Lane.

Pedestrian precinct: Jumpers ratepayers suggesting this, say they have no idea what the County Council have in store for the town centre, but their idea is to make High Street a pedestrian precinct. Two service roads should be driven parallel to High Street, but behind the shops, one through Druitt Gardens, the other a continuation of Millhams Street.

PULL-INS

Jumpers ratepayers would also like to see bus pull-ins wherever possible, particularly in Fairmile and Highcliffe. 'Phone and letter boxes should be sited where motorists can pull off the main road..

They also advocate no parking meters, adding that there should be no parking in shopping streets, and a car park charge of 1s.

Roads they suggest for widening are Purewell, Wick Lane, Whitehall, Millhams Street, Fairmile, Willow Way, Hoburne Lane, Hinton Wood Avenue and Ringwood Road.

ROUNDABOUTS

Roundabouts should be built at Jumpers Corner (instead of the dual carriageway plan), Highcliffe milestone, Stony Lane cross roads and Dudmoor.

Suggested by Christchurch Ratepayers' Association is the widening of Bargates railway bridge and Bargates. They also had ideas for new car parks and extensions to existing ones.

Friars Cliff Residents' Association want a roundabout at Humphreys Bridge and the road

from Somerford roundabout to Highcliffe to be a dual carriageway. Bure Lane should be widened, they say, as it is the only natural approach to the Friars Cliff beach area and traffic increases yearly. Mundeford and Stanpit Residents' Association's proposals were reported in the Christchurch Times last week. Highcliffe Citizens Association have not so far published theirs.