

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

**HAMPSHIRE ACTION TEAM TRANSPORTATION MEETING - FAREHAM**

**LOCAL AND STRATEGIC ISSUES**

**A. Local Issues**

1. Fareham Town Access Plan (presentation)
2. QA Bus Access (verbal update)

**B. Strategic Issues**

3. Quay Street (verbal update)
4. BRT (paper attached)
5. Transport Contributions Policy Scheme List (paper attached)
6. Daedalus
7. A and B Road Review (paper attached)

**B. Strategic Issues****4. HATs briefing note on BRT Phase 1****Supreme Court judgment**

At the hearing at the Supreme Court on 19 January 2011 the judgment of the five law lords who heard the case was handed down, dismissing the appeal against Hampshire County Council. The legal challenge related to environmental issues and the planning permission granted for the BRT Phase 1 route from Fareham to Gosport, rather than the merits of the scheme itself, and had already been dismissed by both the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

The case hinged on the interpretation of the European Habitats Directive in respect of protected species – in this case, bats, and how the County Council has dealt with this in granting permission for the scheme. The decision of the Supreme Court confirmed that the County Council had followed the correct planning procedures and that the decision to grant permission was sound.

The Supreme Court has produced a press summary (attached) which provides both useful background to the case and a concise summary of the reason for the judgment.

**Works progress**

Construction has been proceeding well since September 2010, with completion scheduled for late 2011 and operation commencing shortly thereafter.

- Wych Lane will be closed from early March 2011 until late 2011 to enable the lowering of the embankment and major reprofiling of both Wych Lane and the old railway line. During this work, pedestrian access across the busway will be maintained at all times. This lengthy closure is a consequence of the particularly complicated sequencing of work, which includes gas main, water main, telecom and electric cable diversion.
- Wych Lane bridge will be demolished in early March 2011 to enable the construction of the new junction with the BRT busway.
- There will be temporary traffic lights on Redlands Lane from now until the end of March, to allow two-way working under the rail bridge. These works will enable the construction of the new Redlands Lane junction with the BRT route. A footpath diversion is in place.
- Note: Redlands Lane/A27 Junction improvement also set to start in mid-March.
- Newgate Lane will be reopened on its original alignment in June following the construction of the new bridge over the busway.

## **Communications and marketing**

We have achieved a balanced media coverage during the past two years, with very positive coverage of the Supreme Court judgment. Both the construction programme and the marketing activity will be fully supported by media communications plans.

Our communications activities have also been assisted by the computerised animation of the route as it will look when complete, which is available to view on Hantsplayer. Stills (and footage, in the case of BBC South Today) from this film have been used by the media to help illustrate news stories, and the film was also taken on a tour of local venues in Fareham and Gosport last autumn to help inform local residents about the scheme.

Work has been taking place to produce a brand, including name, colours and logo, for BRT, with six consumer focus groups giving largely positive feedback on the proposed brand in November 2010. Subject to agreement by all partners, the brand will be presented to the TfSH Board in April 2011. Designs for street furniture, bus stops and information pillars are proceeding to plan. A marketing programme will be implemented later this year, led by Hampshire County Council with input from colleagues within TfSH, Portsmouth City Council and SHBOA.

Background information about the scheme, together with frequently asked questions, can be found on the TfSH website at [www.tfsh.org.uk/bus-rapid-transit](http://www.tfsh.org.uk/bus-rapid-transit), while for day-to-day construction matters and traffic information, BAM Nuttall's construction website is at [www.bamnuttall.co.uk/hants-bus-rapid-transit](http://www.bamnuttall.co.uk/hants-bus-rapid-transit).