

Overview & Scrutiny Management Board 12 February 2024 Public Forum



Public Forum Statements

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S1	David Redgewell	Grosvenor Hotel



PUBLIC FORUM - STATEMENTS

Statement 1: David Redgewell – Grosvenor Hotel

We are very concerned about the developments at the Grosvenor Hotel in Bristol. The old historic Bristol hotel was demolished due to fire damage but the 1930 extension has been left; there appears to be some dispute over the sale of the land to Bristol City Council.

Earlcloud appears to have stopped work again, leaving the building in a dangerous state and clearing only enough of the work for some footpath improvements by Bristol City Council and West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority to improve walking cycling and bus lanes facilities on the A37-A4018 corridor, Victoria Streets, Bristol Bridge, Baldwin Street, High Street, and the City Centre.

Passenger groups are very concerned about the state of the bus and coach interchange at Bristol Temple Meads Station on Temple Gate as it is a main bus pick up and set down point for buses calling at Bristol Temple Meads station, and is designed to face the new Friary Entrance to Bristol Temple Meads Station.

The bus interchange also has bus services from South Bristol and Somerset cities and towns calling at this point, from Street, Glastonbury, Wells Bus and Coach Station, Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Bath Spa, Saltford, Keynsham, Brislington, Arnos Vale, Whitchurch, Hengrove, Knowle and Bedminster.

So a major interchange is closed and all the shelters covered in tagging graffiti. And the only recent bus interchange is closed with the bus lanes and cycling and walking routes.

We are asking Bristol City Council to urgently hold talks with the Grosvenor Hotel owners and for the demolition work to be completed so the bus interchange can reopen and for progress to be made on the development of Bristol Temple Meads Station regeneration, including the listed Grade 11 Bristol and Exeter Railway Hotel, and the George and Railway Hotel.

But with money request from Metro Mayor Dan Norris we want to see progress of the works to improve the bus interchange walking and cycling facilities scheme along Victoria Street, Bristol Bridge, Baldwin Street, High Street and the city centre, as part of the city region transport fund for this corridor raised at Bristol City Council last cabinet.

We need urgent discussion and action for passengers travelling through Bristol Temple Meads Station into the city region and the west country for business, leisure and tourism.

Can the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board urgently raise this issue with Bristol City Council Mayor Marvin Rees, Councillor Don Alexander, Transport Executive Western Gateway, Transport Board Chair, Councillor Nichola Beech, Planning Executive, and the Mayor of West of England Combined Authority Dan Norris, and Head of Transport to get the demolition work completed.

This building is still very unsafe and a worry to people walking by and an eyesore in the gateway to the city and county of Bristol.

The bus interchange is important to passengers with reduced mobility and partially sighted passengers, linked to the station by traffic signals and at present have further to walk.

We need progress to be made urgently.

David Redgewell
South West Transport Network Railfuture Severnside
Trustees of Bristol Disability Equalities Forum
Members of Bristol Transport Board
West of England Mayoral Combined Transport Authority and North Somerset Council Bus Passengers Advisory panel.