

CAPETOWNER, THE
Thursday, 16 December 2010, p. 2

Parking blues for NMT construction in Shortmarket Street

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The allocation of parking bays in the newly pedestrianised Shortmarket Street was a hot topic at the community meeting held at the Salesians Institute to discuss the construction of the City's Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) network.

Two sections of Shortmarket Street between Long Street and Bree Street are currently being transformed into tree-lined sidewalks, a dedicated cycle lane and a vehicle lane.

Once complete, no vehicles except delivery vehicles will be allowed in the area.

In a previous meeting businesses raised concerns about the number of bays allocated to the Spanish Consulate.

Business owners claimed that before construction started the consulate only had one bay now the consulate was granted three bays which they said would lead to "abuse".

In his presentation, Adrian Mackay of Arcus Gibb consulting engineers, said the project

team was investigating to see how many bays were previously allocated to the consulate.

"We are trying to find the paper trail and we want to be sure before we re-instate any bays," Mr Mackay said.

In the previous meeting a request was also made by the owners of Rosa's Bakery that adequate space in front of the bakery be made available to allow them to have tables and chairs outside the bakery.

However, Mr Mackay said whether or not the bakery got the space would depend on the outcome of the investigation into the allocation of parking bays to the Spanish consulate.

"If space is available the bakery would need to make an application to the relevant department at the City of Cape Town for permission to place tables and chairs in a public area," Mr Mackay said.

Paul Booth, chief engineer: geometric design for the City's transport, roads and major projects department, said several other issues would be considered

before the bakery would be allowed to have tables and chairs.

"They would need to make an application but among the requirements is that the pedestrians right of way may not be obstructed," Mr Booth said.

Construction of the NMT network started late due to delays in obtaining approval from Heritage Western Cape.

At the previous meeting Mr Mackay said that construction along Shortmarket Street would be complete by January.

However, now it seems construction will end in February next year.

He said the contractor was behind schedule by an additional two weeks because of the poor quality of the clay pavers they received.

"The contractor has brought additional resources on site to complete work earlier and to minimise inconvenience during the holidays," Mr Mackay said.

He said construction will stop on Wednesday December 22 and begin again on Tuesday January 11.

