

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

16th July, 2007

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. at Belle Vue Community, Sports & Youth Centre, Kendal Road, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Denise Ogden, Head of Environmental Management
Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
Ian Jopling, Transportation Team Leader
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Mr and Mrs Greenwell were also in attendance and were allowed to speak on Minute 14.

14. Fens Shops Alleygates *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide updated information on the scheme and seek a decision on the implementation of alleygates to the rear of Fens Shops. A plan of the area was attached as appendix 1.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the investigations into the request and the consultation undertaken. Additional comments that had been received from Councillor Gibbon and Councillor Lilley were outlined in the report. The comments of Fens Residents Association and answer to their queries were also included in the report.

The Fens Neighbourhood Police Officers had reiterated their comments in support of the scheme (these were outlined in section 2 of the report). Two of the four objections received from the previous consultation had been addressed. One resident simply wanted to ensure he would receive a key to

the gate and one resident was concerned at the type of lock to be used. These issues were being addressed.

The Portfolio Holder advised that he was minded to agree to the installation of the alleygates in principle and he did not want any delays if problems arose later. However he advised residents that they would not be erected unless future events made it necessary.

Decision

That the installation of alleygates be agreed in principle and that officers be authorised to erect them in the future should the need arise.

15. Woodstock Way – Traffic Calming (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of traffic calming on Woodstock Way.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained background information, outlined the issues for consideration and reported on consultation. The estimated cost was £6,000 and would be funded through the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum.

It was proposed to implement a series of 4 speed cushions on Woodstock Way. These would be a type of road hump that allow buses, fire appliances and ambulances to straddle the hump and therefore would not impede their journey or cause discomfort to passengers. The speed cushions would be sited adjacent to parking bays and it would therefore be necessary to construct a narrow barrier in the parking bay to prevent vehicles from avoiding the cushion. The barriers would have a minimal impact on the number of parking spaces available.

Decision

That the implementation of the speed cushions on Woodstock Way be authorised, in line with officers recommendations and the wishes of Ward Councillors.

16. Proposed One Hour Waiting Period, Tower Street (Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request consideration of the introduction of a one hour waiting restriction at Tower Street outside St Josephs school.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was advised that Tower Street is currently protected by a residents' only parking restriction. The restriction had been introduced to ensure residents of Tower Street / Newhaven Court had some available parking provision and to protect the zone from commuters parking in the area. A plan was provided.

The report advised that the area is close to the Hartlepool College of Further Education and without any form of restrictive parking, controls would be subject to long stay parking from students and commuters working close to the town centre. The current restrictions allow a ten minute concession to park without the need for motorists to display a valid parking permit. A request had been made by the Chairman of Governors of the School to assist with the parking needs both staff and parents collecting pupils from the school.

Parking Patrol Officers had carried out a number of observations at various times throughout the hours of enforcement. Occupancy by permit holders was minimal and Officers felt the area could therefore accommodate some additional short stay parking provision. The inclusion of a one hour parking concession within a residential permit controlled zone had already been introduced in some areas of the town centre and this had worked successfully protecting residents but allowing some businesses to operate within a parking controlled zone.

In order to control any abuse of the time concession, a no return within two hours condition would be included. The permit scheme could not however incorporate the staff parking needs. Any long stay staff parking requirements would need to be accommodated within the school boundary or staff would be required to find parking availability away from the controlled zone.

There would be minimal financial cost implications.

Decision

That an amendment to the existing residents parking order to allow a one

hour parking concession (no return within 2 hours) be approved, in line with officer recommendation and the wishes of the Chairman of Governors at St Joseph's School.

17. Street Naming Request Church Street Area (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise on a request, by a property developer, for the introduction of new street names for the back street, to the north of Church Street, and the access road leading to it, located opposite Lynn Street (North) as indicated on the plan attached (Appendix 1).

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained detailed background information in relation to concerns raised by the property developer. The former bank at 65 Church Street had obtained planning permission for a change of use to an antique centre and art gallery. The new owner had requested postal addresses to be issued for the new properties. Consultation had been undertaken with Royal Mail and the Fire Service and the properties had been allocated the postal addresses of 65a and 65b Church Street for doors located as indicated in Appendix 1.

As Church Street is within a conservation area enquiries had been made of the Council's Conservation Manager who had advised that there were no issues with the creation of a new street name from a conservation point of view. The Fire Rescue Service had advised that they would prefer the properties to be numbered 65a and 65b Church Street from the point of view of their rescue service.

Consultation had also taken place through the Central Neighbourhood Forum meeting on 14th June 2007 from which no adverse comments had been received. Officers were satisfied that the proposed postal addresses would not cause any confusion with regard to both customers and delivery vehicles being able to locate the properties. The financial implications were outlined in the report.

Decision

That the request for a new name for the street be refused, in line with Fire Rescue Service preferences.

18. Review of Parking Charges (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request consideration of future pay and display and permit car parking charges.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report reviewed the current tariff rates and provided further information in respect of the charges made by neighbouring authorities. A full breakdown of individual sites, bay numbers, tariff rates and the suggested permit increases were indicated in Appendix 1.

Appendix 2 provided a breakdown of pay and display charges made by neighbourhood local authorities.

The financial implications were detailed in the report.

Decision

- i. That a 20p per hour charge increase be approved.
- ii. That the proposed new price structure be introduced with effect from October 2007.
- iii. That officers be authorised to proceed with the necessary advertising of legal orders.
- iv. That a full consultation on the proposals be carried out prior to implementation, with the results being brought back to the Portfolio Holder.

19. Proposed Residents Only Parking Scheme – Marske Street, The Maltings, Redcar Close and Blakelock Gardens (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request consideration of the introduction of residents only permit parking controls on Marske Street, The Maltings, Redcar Close and Blakelock Gardens.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the background and gave details of resident consultation. Tables were provided giving a summary of the consultation carried out with residents in 2006 and of the second consultation carried out during a five week period in May 2007.

The majority of replies from Marske Street residents requested that permit controls should be introduced. Responses from residents of Blakelock Gardens, The Maltings and Redcar Close appeared to oppose the proposals. The low response / negative feed-back of residents of The Maltings / Redcar Close appeared to indicate that the need for residents parking permits was questionable.

The report indicated that formalised parking in Marske Street would be difficult and parking may well have to be restricted to one side of the road to allow access. This may well reduce the number of parking spaces residents currently utilise. Although residents had complained that visitors to nearby premises in Stockton Road often exacerbate the parking demand the business premises did have dedicated car parks to the rear of their properties and there was little evidence to suggest that demand existed during the current hours of enforcement.

The financial implications were outlined in the report.

Decision

- i. That the request to create a resident's only parking permit zone for Blakelock Gardens, Marske Street, Redcar Close and the Maltings be rejected for the reasons indicated.
- ii. That officers monitor parking problems in Marske Street.

20. Request to Support Services 1/1A and 15 (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request consideration of the provision of financial support to maintain the existing bus services 1/1A and 15 which were to be removed as commercial services.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report provided information on the modified registration for Service 1/1A and a complete de-registration of Service 15. Information on the patronage and cost of maintaining the service was also provided.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that as both services were currently provided on a commercial basis, Stagecoach was not required to consult on service changes. The Council had not undertaken any consultation as the registration period had only recently been activated.

As Service 1/1A and Service 15 were currently operated on a commercial basis, the withdrawal would have no impact on the Council's supported bus services revenue budget.

The Portfolio Holder expressed his deepest disappointment that the bus operations company had decided to de-register the service 15 particularly in light of the profits the company had reportedly made recently and the effect this would have on the communities that this bus route serves at present. It appeared that any service which does not make an acceptable profit was scrapped regardless of the communities involved and without consultation with the Council. This was a situation that could not go on. The Council would seek ways of providing bus services that would overall be run within their financial constraints but give the best service possible to the people of Hartlepool without the threat of having to hand over more money to the private companies each time there was an unprofitable route identified.

Decision

- i. That financial support not be provided for Service 1/1A
- ii. That officers be authorised to obtain a cost for temporarily maintaining the existing Service 15 through a formal tender process.

21. Revised Timetable for Supported Bus Service 5 (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval to implement a revised timetable for supported Service 5 between Hart Station and the Headland.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report provided information on the Council's re-introduction of Service 5 and details of representations made regarding the waiting of buses at Middlegate and the close running of services between Middlegate and the Brus Arms. The current and proposed timetables were provided within the report.

The effect the revision would have were outlined in the report. The current operator, Stagecoach, would be required to submit an application to the North East Traffic Commissioner to alter the current timetabled service. The process would take 56 days from the date of the application to approval.

Residents opposite the bus stop at Middlegate and ward councillors for St Hilda, Brus and Hart had been consulted on the proposed timetable revision. Stagecoach Hartlepool had been involved in the development of the revised timetable and had confirmed full support for the proposal.

There would be no financial implications to the Council as a result of implementing the revised timetable.

Decision

That the revised timetable for Service 5 as outlined in the report be approved.

22. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006

Minute No. 23 - Results of Tender for Supported Bus Services - Para 3, namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

23. Results of Tender for Supported Bus Services (Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of tendering results relating to supported bus service contracts.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report provided information on the tendered costs of supported bus service contracts. Details were given of the three tenders received, including financial details of the proposed contracts. Funding was available through the Council's bus revenue support budget.

Decision

That the awarding of supported bus service contracts to the lowest price tenderers, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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