

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD 23 April 2010

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager
Sarah Scarr, Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

28. Elwick Conservation Area Appraisals – *Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek Portfolio Holder approval of a conservation area appraisal report for Elwick Conservation area.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the background to the appraisal. A public consultation event had been carried out with residents by means of a drop in session with residents notified by way of leaflets sent to each property. The responses to a questionnaire which was circulated at the event were summarised in Appendix 1 of the document. Residents were supportive of conserving the historic character of the village but the main areas of concern were the traffic flow through the village and the public realm. An action plan had been created to address the comments and concerns.

The Mayor asked whether there was any budget earmarked to address the issues and was informed that although there was no conservation budget, there was potential for funding from Limestone Landscapes, therefore a plan would be produced to place a bid for funding.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the appraisal and agreed to the action plan.

29. Greatham Conservation Area Appraisals – Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek Portfolio Holder approval of a conservation area appraisal report for Greatham Conservation Area.

Issues for Consideration

An appraisal document had been created for the Greatham Conservation area. Public consultation had taken place in February with residents by means of an event organised by the Parish Council, and a drop in session. The responses to a questionnaire circulated at the event were summarised in Appendix 1 of the report and were supportive of the conservation area. It was highlighted that the Hospital of God owns many properties in the village and there was support to extend the Article 4 Direction within the Conservation Area and for environmental improvements. An action plan had been produced to address these issues.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the appraisal and agreed to the action plan.

30. Additional Rail Services for Tall Ships Events – Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To advise the Portfolio Holder on proposals to improve rail links to the town during the Tall Ships event and to seek approval for the funding of such.

Issues for Consideration

The current rail provision for the town was outlined along with proposals for an extended service to cope with the visitors to the Tall Ships event which would allow visitors to stay in the town for the full programme of events, many of which did not begin until after the current last train at 9.20 pm. Negotiations had taken place with Northern Rail, Network Rail and Grand Central to strengthen the existing service by the provision of additional

carriages on existing trains, as well as additional trains and buses. Additional staff would also be provided to assist with crowd management. The agreed costs for the provision of extra train capacity was £140,000 and the cost of additional buses would be in the region of £28,000. All of these costs could be met from the existing Tall Ships budget.

The Mayor commented that although this seemed a high cost, the current train service was limited and many visitors would require public transport to visit the event. He stressed the importance of advertising the train timetable and capacity of trains to ensure that visitors could get to and from the event easily. He pointed out that this was not an extra cost for Tall Ships 2010 as this had already been budgeted for. The organisers were attempting to mitigate every possible outcome or potential cause for complaint.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder granted approval to fund the provision of additional trains and back up buses to provide additional public transport capacity to the town for the duration of the Tall Ships event.

31. Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment – *Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To make the Portfolio Holder aware that on 25 March 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government introduced Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

Issues for Consideration

The Landscape Planning and Conservation Officer informed the Portfolio Holder of the changes that the Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5 had introduced. These related to buildings, not merely those in a conservation area or listed, but any which were buildings of local or historical significance not formally designated. Greater emphasis was to be placed on research into sites and buildings prior to planning any developments or alterations. Applicants would be required to provide a statement of significance noting features and how they would be affected by any development. The Historic Environment Record of Hartlepool is held by Tees Archaeology but the new PPS may mean that this would be accessed more regularly by residents and their agents. It was also likely that there would be an increase in Officer workload with the introduction of statements of significance as applicants would require advice on completion of these as the new system is introduced.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report.

The meeting concluded at 10.16 am.

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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