

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

DECISION RECORD

8 July 2013

The meeting commenced at 9.30am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Peter Jackson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie, Keith Dawkins, Steve Gibbon and Sylvia Tempest.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2 (ii), Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Rob Cook

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services
Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader
Tracy Rowe, Community Regeneration Officer
Fiona Stanforth, Regeneration Officer
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

8. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rob Cook and Brenda Loynes.

9. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Sylvia Tempest declared a personal and pecuniary interest in minutes 12 and indicated she would leave the meeting during the consideration of that item. Councillor Jim Ainslie and Sylvia Tempest declared a personal interest in minute 11.

10. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2013

Received.

11. Headland 20 MPH Zone Request *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To advise the Committee of a request for consideration of a 20 mph zone on the Headland.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report outlined the scrutiny investigation that had been undertaken in 2011 into the possibility of 20 mph limits throughout Hartlepool. A request had been received from the Headland Parish Council asking that the Headland be considered for a 20 mph zone. It was noted that the Headland was a self-contained area which would lend itself to being a 20 mph zone subject to public support and to determine that, it was recommended that a consultation exercise be undertaken. The cost of the consultation exercise would be approximately £500 and would be met from the Council's Local Transport Plan.

In response to a question from a Member, the Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services reassured Members that a letter drop to every resident on the Headland would be undertaken as part of the consultation exercise. During the discussions that followed, it was suggested that public meetings be held as part of the consultation exercise. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that the consultation programme would be fully supported by the Regeneration Team.

It was noted that the Road Safety Team Leader had given a comprehensive presentation to the Parish Council which was very informative and it was suggested that this presentation should be given at the public meetings as part of the consultation programme.

Decision

That a consultation exercise be carried out regarding the possibility of a 20 mph zone for the Headland in line with section 5 of the report including public meetings with a presentation by the Road Safety Team Leader on the impact of introducing a 20 mph zone..

Councillor Sylvia Tempest left the meeting at this point in view of her earlier declaration of interest.

12. Introduction of Parking Charge – HME Car Park (Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To report on the current non regulated car park at the Hartlepool Maritime Experience (HME) and propose a formal traffic management plan including the introduction of a pay and display parking charge.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report outlined the location and current use of the site which serves as parking provision for visitors to the Hartlepool Maritime Experience (HME) and Hartlepool Museum. A number of surveys had been undertaken on the use of the site and they had suggested that a formal parking scheme was required. The proposed controls were not intended to discourage visitors and/or commuters, but were merely to control the vehicle numbers and prioritise the main car park users, therefore the introduction of daily parking fee was favoured at a charge of £1. In order to protect visitor numbers attending the HME and Hartlepool Museum, the pay and display machines would be configured to produce a voucher which would be redeemable against any admission charge. It was also proposed to introduce a prohibition of waiting restriction on Maritime Avenue to protect that area. The financial considerations for these proposals were outlined in the report.

During the discussions that followed, Members commented that marked bays would organise the parking within the HME car park but there were concerns that introducing a parking charge would deter visitors from coming to visit the HME and the free Museum of Hartlepool. In addition to this, it was noted that a number of residents in the marina area had indicated to Members that they did not support the proposals.

It was noted that a wider review of car parking would be undertaken later in the year and it was suggested that car parking in this area be re-examined as part of that wider review. However, it was suggested that the marking of car parking bays should be re-examined as this would ease any confusion and organise the parking in that area. It was therefore requested that costings to create marked parking bays be reported back to the next meeting for Members' consideration.

Decision

- (i) The introduction of a pay and display parking charge at the HME car park was not supported at this present time.
- (ii) The introduction of a waiting restriction to be created on Maritime Avenue was not required in view of recommendation (i) noted above.
- (iii) That the issue of car parking around the HME be re-examined as part of the wider review of car parking which would be undertaken later in the year.
- (iv) That costings to create additional marked parking bays in the car park adjacent to the HME be reported back to the next meeting for Members' consideration.

Councillor Sylvia Tempest rejoined the meeting.

13. Proposed New Arrangements to Replace the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy Steering Group *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To report on the existing remit of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy Steering Group, the reasons for why the group was established, progress made to date and to propose alternative arrangements to take the work of the group forward.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined a review that had been undertaken in 2012 which resulted in the VCS Strategy Steering Group being created. The VCS Strategy was one of the only Council strategies that had a specific steering group to take forward implementation. In light of the Council's new governance arrangements, it was proposed that a more streamlined approach for the governance of the VCS Strategy be developed linking in with the new structure through the remit of the VCS representation on the Strategic Partners Group. A review of the future role, remit and responsibilities of the Strategic Partners Group would be undertaken at the Group's development day on 19 July 2013 and the views of this Committee would be fed into that review.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that the

proposal would ensure progress and the development of an action plan would be undertaken. It was noted that the involvement of the voluntary and community sector would be undertaken through elections organised by the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency.

Decision

- (i) The new proposed governance arrangements for the VCS Strategy were approved.
- (ii) That the governance arrangements would be considered as part of the review of the Strategic Partners Group.
- (iii) That the VCS Strategy be updated to reflect the changes once agreed by the Finance and Policy Committee at its meeting in August.

14. Additional Highway Maintenance Funding 2013/14 (Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for additional highway maintenance works to be undertaken as part of the 2013/14 Highway Maintenance Programme.

Issue(s) for consideration by

As part of the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2014/15 an uncommitted resource of £0.2m had been identified and subject to Council approval on 25 July 2013, it was recommended that this be allocated towards the existing 5 year Highways Maintenance Plan. It was proposed that the additional funding be targeted towards schemes that were currently in year 2 of the Five-Year Highway Maintenance Programme as approved by this Committee on 3 June 2013. A full list of proposed schemes was attached at Appendix 1.

The Highways Team were thanked for their hard work and commitment to an area of work that was one of the biggest issues raised by residents.

Decision

That the highway maintenance schemes identified in Appendix 1 were approved, subject to Council approval of the allocated funding on 25 July 2013.

15. North Linear Park (Progress Update) *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To provide an update of project progress on the North Linear Park project.

Issue(s) for consideration by

The report provided the background to the use of the area which was identified in a plan attached by way of appendix.

Clavering Park – Members were informed that funding from a variety of sources had been secured to implement the skatespot element of the Clavering Park masterplan. It was noted that the Steering Group, which was chaired by a Ward Councillor and comprised residents, representatives from Central Estate Management Organisation (CEMO), Clavering Residents Association, Groundwork North East and Council officers, has secured match funding towards the Big Tree Plant for the first phase of tree planting which was now complete. Additional funding for the remaining elements of the master plan would continue to be sought.

Central Park – The Steering Group were currently undertaking consultation on the revised plans for Central Park. Following this consultation, any subsequent issues would be addressed and planning approval would be sought. The report outlined a number of sources of funding that had been secured towards the development of Central Park.

The financial considerations for both the above schemes were outlined in the report. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods highlighted the contribution made by residents and everyone involved in the Steering Group in securing all the elements of additional funding.

Members were supportive of the development of the North Linear Parks based on how well utilised the facility at Summerhill was. Clarification was sought on how this development complemented the future development of tree planting in the town. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that the proposed development of the North Linear Park conformed with the Local Plan and Planning Policy Guidance 17 in relation to the open space assessment.

A Member questioned the funding of future maintenance of the parks. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that this was a very

important consideration in the development of any proposals and as such was likely to form part of Members' future budget considerations. A Member suggested that alternative options to short grass such as wild flower mixes should be examined further to contribute to a low maintenance scheme.

Members paid tribute to the officers who were working on the development of the project as their enthusiasm had inspired the community to work together.

Decision

The contents of the report in relation to the progress of the North Linear Park project were noted.

16. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The meeting concluded at 10.29 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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