

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

17 November 2014

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

Present:

Councillor: Peter Jackson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie, Allan Barclay, Keith Dawkins, Steve Gibbon, and
Marjorie James

Also Present: Members of the public

Officers: Alastair Smith, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Team Leader
Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

36. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Brenda Loynes.

37. Declarations of Interest

None

38. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2014

Received.

39. Safer Routes to School Project – Rossmere and St Teresa's Primary Schools *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key decision

Purpose of report

To seek approval for a Safer Routes to School Scheme that will improve road safety and help promote walking to school by making improvements to the pedestrian environment.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided background information to the work undertaken in conjunction with the national charity Living Streets to deliver the Walk to School Outreach Project. Since the project commenced, 16 School Route Audits had been carried out at a number of schools in Hartlepool. The aim was to work with children, parents and staff to identify physical barriers to walking on the streets in the vicinity of their school, details of which were set out in the report.

Both St Teresa's and Rossmere Primary School had been involved with the Walk to School Outreach Project. From this work concerns relating to vehicle speeds and parking problems in the residential area to the south/east of the schools had been identified as barriers to encouraging walking to school. For these reasons, a 'School Safety' Zone' incorporating a 20mph speed limit was proposed for Callander Road, Campbell Road, Calder Grove, Cullen Road and Balmoral Road. Traffic calming in the form of speed cushions was proposed for Callander Road and Balmoral Road, the benefits of which were outlined in the report.

Consultation on the scheme had been undertaken with local residents, schools, ward members and the Council's Traffic Liaison Group, the outcome of which was included in the report. There was strong support for the principle of the scheme.

With regard to the financial considerations, Members were referred to a table included in the report which set out a summary of the proposed scheme, costs and the schools/wards that would benefit.

Residents, who were in attendance at the meeting, were invited to speak. Whilst one resident expressed support for traffic calming measures generally, he raised objections to the proposals to insert speed humps in Balmoral Road and, was of the view, that a chicane type approach would be a more suitable proposal. Another two residents raised concerns in

relation to road safety issues as a result of inconsiderate parking problems in the area, examples of which were provided.

In the debate that followed, the Committee discussed the options available to address this issue and the need to educate drivers on the importance of children's safety around schools was highlighted including the benefits of 20mph speed restrictions. In response to clarification sought on the feasibility of installing pinch points/a chicane type approach as an alternative to speed cushions, the Assistant Director advised that whilst this option could be further explored it was likely to be a more costly option.

Following further debate, the Committee was of the view that alternative options should be explored and that the report should be deferred pending receipt of further information.

Decision

That the report be deferred pending receipt of further information on alternative traffic calming options available to be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration.

40. Proposed Residential Parking Scheme – Hart Lane (Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To report on the outcome of a consultation with residents regarding proposals to introduce a residents only permit parking scheme on a section of Hart Lane, Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that following requests from a number of residents living on Hart Lane, consultation had taken place regarding the possibility of creating a residents only controlled parking scheme. The five properties most directly affected by the parking issues had been consulted and the proposal was unanimously supported by all of the property owners.

The creation of a residents only permit parking scheme would require legal orders to be formally advertised and the advertising cost was estimated at £200 and would be met from the Parking Services operational budget. Members were referred to the financial and legal considerations of the

proposal, as set out in the report.

In the discussion that followed the Assistant Director responded to issues raised in relation to the consultation process and enforcement actions available.

Decision

- (i) That the proposed resident's only parking scheme 44-52 Hart Lane be approved.
- (ii) That the Head of Legal Services be requested to advertise the necessary legal orders for consideration.

41. Proposed School Time Parking Restriction – Talland Close *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To report on the outcome of a consultation with residents regarding proposals to introduce a residents only permit parking scheme and/or controlled school time parking restrictions.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director reported on the background to the decision taken by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods in December 2012 to defer the decision on the school time restriction until further consultation on the feasibility of a residents only permit scheme was carried out. Residents had been consulted on three possible traffic management options:-

- A residents permit scheme
- A prohibition of waiting in Talland Close from its junction with Westwood Way
- A partial restriction concentrating on the main problematic area closest to the pedestrian walkway

Of the 48 properties consulted, 22 responses had been received of which 18 did not consider the residents permit zone would be a suitable workable option. 20 of the responses considered a full or partial prohibition of parking, where loading was prohibited during school times, was more likely to resolve the issues residents were experiencing.

It was reported that as Talland Close was not in a town centre location it would be extremely difficult and resourceful to patrol by mobile Civil Enforcement Officers. However, this prohibition of waiting control could be policed by the Local Authority's mobile camera car. The use of camera enforcement in this case would allow more frequent patrols to take place.

Members were advised that it may be beneficial to trial an Experimental Order over a 12 month period and review the success, or otherwise, of the parking controls whilst assessing what affect any controls had on the longer term attitude and driver behaviour to school collection runs.

A Member, whilst in support of the proposals, suggested that a review of the impact of such controls be undertaken in 9 months time to enable the scheme to be extended, if appropriate, with no break in delivery.

Decision

- (i) That a residential permit controlled zone in Talland Close should not proceed.
- (ii) That a 12 month experimental prohibition of waiting restriction operating Monday – Friday including a loading ban between the hours of 8.30 – 9.30 and 14.30 and 15.30 be approved.
- (iii) The impact of such controls be reported to this Committee in 9 months time when, subject to the restrictions continuing, formal approval of the legal orders would be required.

42. Safer Routes to School Project – Puffin Crossing at West View Road *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key decision

Purpose of report

To seek approval for a range of Safer Routes to School Schemes that will improve road safety and help promote walking to school by upgrading a number of school crossing patrol sites.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided background information to the work undertaken in conjunction with the national charity Living Streets to deliver the Walk to School Outreach Project. Since the project commenced, 16 School Route Audits had been carried out at a number of schools in Hartlepool. The aim was to work with children, parents and staff to identify physical barriers to

walking on the streets in the vicinity of their school, details of which were set out in the report.

Through the work with the Living Streets, a common barrier to walking to a number of schools was the difficulty of crossing West View Road around the junction between King Oswy Drive and Davison Drive, not only at school times but across the whole day and at weekends. To assist with crossing at this location a scheme had been designed to install a Puffin Crossing, details of which were included in the report.

Consultation on the scheme had been undertaken with local residents, schools, ward members and the Council's Traffic Liaison Group, the outcome of which was included in the report. The response was positively in favour of the scheme with 27 responses in favour and 1 against the proposal.

With regard to the financial considerations, Members were referred to a table included in the report which set out a summary of the proposed scheme, costs and the schools/wards that would benefit.

Decision

That the schemes, as outlined in section 4 of the report, be approved.

43. Flooding Scheme Update *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To update Members on the work undertaken to address flooding issues throughout Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director presented the report which provided background information to the Council's role, as lead Local Flood Authority, in developing a strategy to tackle local flood risks. The Council had undertaken various projects to both investigate and remediate flooding sites across the Borough and included schemes at North Close, Elwick, Riverston Close, Padstow Close, Greatham Works and the A689 at Wynyard, details of which were outlined in the report.

Incidents requiring more than a gully cleanse would continue to be investigated by officers who would prioritise flooding schemes on the basis of property level flooding and the protection of major infrastructure being the most critical in the first instance.

The Assistant Director thanked Councillor James for her support to the Team as Flood Champion. The Committee welcomed the report and the Chair took the opportunity to also express the Committee's thanks to the Principal Engineer, Kieran Bostock, along with all members of the team for all the hard work that had been undertaken to prevent and mitigate any future flooding events in Hartlepool.

Decision

That the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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