

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

26 October 2015

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Councillor Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie, Allan Barclay, Steve Gibbon, Peter Jackson, Brenda Loynes and Jean Robinson

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
Mike Blair, Technical Services Manager
Steve Wilkie, Landscape Architect Team Leader
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

31. Apologies for Absence

None

32. Declarations of Interest

None

33. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2015

Received

34. Brenda Road Speed Limit Change *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the reduction in speed limit on Brenda Road from

40mph to 30mph.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that following a fatal road traffic collision in October 2014, a review of the section of Brenda Road between Belle Vue Way and B&Q roundabouts had been undertaken, the background of which was included in the report. It was noted that in the accident referred to there was no blame attached to the driver, who was found to be travelling below the posted speed limit when the collision occurred. The Coroner's inquest also found no evidence that the road had contributed to the accident.

It was proposed that the section of Brenda Road be reduced from 40mph to 30 mph. The section of Brenda Road immediately north of Belle Vue Way roundabout was subject to a 30mph limit and continued to be into the town centre. The proposed change would be consistent with this approach.

With regard to the financial considerations, the advertising costs for the traffic regulation order and the associated signage would be met from the Council's Local Transport Plan and were estimated to be £4,000.

In the debate that followed, the Committee discussed the options available. In response to a suggestion that 30mph speed restrictions be extended from Golden Flats into the town centre to avoid any confusion for drivers, the Technical Services Manager advised that given the width of that section of the road and type of infrastructure a 40mph speed limit was more appropriate. However, this suggestion could be further explored.

The Committee was of the view that this option should be further explored and that the report should be deferred pending receipt of further information.

Decision

That the report be deferred pending receipt of further information to be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee in relation extending the 30mph speed restrictions from Golden Flatts to the town centre.

35. Rossmere Park Funding Bid *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report was to advise the Neighbourhood Services Policy Committee on proposals for improvements to Rossmere Park and to seek the Committee's endorsement of the Chair's decision to submit the bid, and if successful delegate the Director for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, together with the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Solicitor to accept any approved bid and commence the works.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided background information to proposed improvements to Rossmere Park which had been identified following the result of a public consultation exercise that had been undertaken. Members were referred to the proposals as set out in the report which included selective tree removal, refurbishment of play areas, new parking spaces and off-street car parking, events area and a potential park building for community use.

The proposals would be a phased approach with Phase 1 bid incorporating the refurbishment of existing play areas. It was the intention to submit a funding bid for these works at the earliest opportunity. If successful further bids would be made for those works requiring planning permission (Phase 2). A future phase for a park building would be dependent upon further consultation and assessment of the sustainability of such a project, details of which were set out in appendices to the report.

Members welcomed the scheme and were keen to be involved in the decisions taken in relation to the improvements. The Chair highlighted the option for the Committee to establish a working group with the opportunity to invite other Members to contribute. In response to clarification sought, the proposed timescales for the scheme were provided.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report and comments of Members be noted.
- (ii) The Committee approved the proposal to bid for funding and, if successful, delegate the Director for Regeneration and

Neighbourhoods, together with the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Solicitor to accept the funding and undertake the works in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

36. Thackeray Road – Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme

(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of traffic calming and a 20mph speed limit on Thackeray Road.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director reported that following concerns raised by residents with regard to the speed of traffic and general road safety on Thackeray Road, consultation had taken place with all households on Thackeray Road and Pope Grove to seek their views on the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit and a series of 6 road humps on Thackeray Road as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

With regard to the results of the consultation, of the 94 letters and plans that had been sent out, 9 replies had been received, all of whom were in favour of the proposals. Ward Members had also expressed their support for the scheme. Three household responses suggested the possibility of Thackeray Road being made a one way street and this was something that could be considered in the future should problems persist.

It was estimated that the scheme would cost approximately £15,000 and would be funded from the Local Transport Budget allocation.

Decision

That the proposed 20mph speed limit and traffic calming scheme at Thackeray Road be approved.

37. Wordsworth Avenue – Traffic Calming Scheme (Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of traffic calming and a 20mph speed limit on Wordsworth Avenue.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director reported that following concerns raised by residents with regard to the speed of traffic and general road safety on Wordsworth Avenue, consultation had taken place with all households on Wordsworth Avenue to seek their views on the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit and a series of 4 road humps on Wordsworth Avenue as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

With regard to the results of the consultation, of the 55 letters that were sent out, only 2 replies had been received, who were both in favour of the proposals. Ward Members had also expressed their support for the scheme.

It was estimated that the scheme would cost approximately £10,000 and would be funded from the Local Transport Plan budget allocation.

Reference was made to the ongoing improvement works at the Waverley Terrace site and it was suggested that following completion of the works a wider consultation be undertaken with residents with a view to extending the 20mph zone to include Waverley Terrace.

Decision

- (i) That the proposed 20mph speed limit and traffic calming measures at Wordsworth Avenue, as detailed in Appendix 1 be approved.
- (ii) That upon completion of works at Waverley Terrace a wider consultation be undertaken with residents with a view to extending the 20mph zone to include Waverley Terrace.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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