

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

20 February 2017

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck, Sandra Belcher, Dave Hunter, Brenda Loynes and George Springer

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Clare Clark, Head of Community Safety and Engagement
Mike Blair, Technical Services Manager
Peter Frost, Highways Traffic and Transport Team Leader
Jeff Mason, Strategic Policy and Performance Management Manager
Catherine Grimwood, Performance and Partnerships Manager
Phil Hepburn, Environment Enforcement Team Leader
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

71. Apologies for Absence

None

72. Declarations of Interest

None

73. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2017

Received

74. Minutes of the meeting of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee held on 30 November 2016

Received

75. Minutes of the meeting of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee held on 1 February 2017

Received

76. Bede Grove Traffic Calming Scheme (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the introduction of traffic calming measures in Bede Grove.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that following a number of representations from residents of Bede Grove requesting the installation of traffic calming measures, it was proposed that two road humps be installed in Bede Grove between Kingsley Avenue to Tristram Avenue and Tristram Avenue to Tennyson Avenue, details of which were set out at Appendix 1.

Members were advised that Bede Grove was a narrow residential road running from Kingsley Avenue through to Tennyson Avenue and was used as a cut through by vehicles on occasions. Whilst being a fairly quiet road it was unusual in the fact that it had no footpaths on either side, resulting in residents, including children, stepping straight from their front gardens into traffic.

With regard to the results of the consultation in relation to the proposals, 22 letters had been sent to all residents of Bede Grove and Ward Members and a 20 name petition had been submitted in support of the scheme.

It was estimated that the scheme would cost approximately £15,000 and would be funded from the Council's Local Transport Plan.

Decision

That the proposed traffic calming scheme in Bede Grove, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved.

77. Car Park – Review of Charges (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To further consider options in relation to the setting of parking charges.

To consider detailed proposals for parking at Seaton Carew.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods presented the report which provided background information to the decision taken in December 2016 in relation to parking charges and the request that the potential financial impact of extending the current arrangements and creating a new 'free after 3pm' scheme in town centre car parks. Members also requested that information be provided to enable Members to agree what parking charges should be levied after the first 2 hours at Seaton Carew.

With regard to town centre parking, it was noted that enhancing the free after 3pm scheme (excluding the Waldon Street car park) would result in an income reduction in the region of £20,000 per year. The various options that had been considered in terms of shopping centre car parks and the advantages and issues arising from each option were provided and explored in detail in the report.

Following approval by Committee in relation to parking charges at Seaton Carew, a feasibility study had been undertaken and various issues had been considered in conjunction with Ward Councillors. Members were referred to the proposals, as set out on a parking plan, attached at Appendix A.

The report highlighted some of the key proposals which included the introduction of a residential parking scheme and pay and display parking at various points along the Front, The Cliff and Coronation Drive. The parking plan proposed that the existing limited waiting zones situated near the main area of shops, take-aways and businesses be retained and the free parking time allowed be increased from the current 20 minutes to 30 minutes. Dedicated parking bays had also been incorporated into the plan and would be made available to local businesses. The question of whether to introduce charges at the car park within Seaton Park had also been considered and it was felt that this car park should remain free of charge. Enforcement of the new parking restrictions would require additional

patrols, details of which were provided.

With regard to proposed charges at Seaton Carew, benchmarking information had been obtained from several other local authorities that charged for seaside parking in the north east, details of which were included in the report. The Committee was referred to the following proposed tariffs:-

Short Stay – up to 2 hours	£1.00
Medium Stay – 2 hours to 4 hours	£1.50
Long Stay – More than 4 hours	£2.00

The Director reminded Members that this was an experimental order which would enable all aspects of the scheme to be implemented on a temporary basis and regular consultation events would be held throughout the seven month period to assist with the evaluation at the end of the experimental order to present to Members as soon as practicably possible. Assurances were also provided that the Council was aware of the concerns of residents and a petition against the proposals had been received and noted. The proposed parking plan did address some of the concerns received.

The Town Centre Manager, who was in attendance at the meeting, welcomed the proposals for a free after 3pm scheme for town centre car parks and commented on the benefits to retailers as a result. A commitment to assist with signage across the centre was also highlighted.

During the discussion that followed Members spoke in support of the free after 3pm scheme and the Chair provided clarification in response to queries raised.

In relation to the proposals for Seaton Carew, a number of residents/ members of the public/ business owners, who were in attendance, were invited to address the Committee and spoke against the proposals. Objections in relation to the charges included concerns around the financial impact for part time staff working in small businesses and low income families visiting the sea front, that the 30 minute waiting/free parking zones used by drop-in customers was insufficient time to visit some takeaways, that all business owners were against the proposals given the likely impact on trade and revenue implications and did not accept that the scheme was a temporary arrangement. The Chair and Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods responded to the issues raised. Assurances were provided that all aspects of the scheme would be implemented on a temporary basis and would be reviewed within and no longer than 12 months time pending the outcome of the evaluation. The concerns of businesses had been considered and it was proposed that during the experimental traffic management order, businesses would be provided with one permit free of charge, details of which were provided.

The Secretary of Seaton Carew Bowling Club raised a number of concerns

regarding the impact of introducing car parking charges for bowling club members. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods advised that it was proposed that Seaton Carew Park car park would continue to be free and that blue badge holders would continue to be able to park free of charge in designated areas.

Members considered in detail the proposals and representations made. In response to a Member's opposition to the proposals, the Committee was advised that whilst these comments were acknowledged, it was reiterated that the proposed charges were minimal and in line with parking arrangements for businesses operating across the town with the seasonal arrangements at Seaton taken into consideration. The Director provided clarification in terms of the background to the proposals and responded to further queries raised in relation to the report. Assurances were provided that the representations made at today's meeting would be taken on board in the evaluation process.

In concluding the debate, the Chair sought the Committee's views on each of the recommendations contained within the report which were explained in detail.

Decision

1. That a 'free after 3pm' parking scheme be introduced at the Multi Storey, Basement and East side (former Marks & Spencer) car parks.
2. That the parking plan for Seaton Carew set out at **Appendix A** be agreed including the following specific items contained within:-
 - i) Residential parking schemes in the Crawford Street/Church Street area and in designated streets north of Station Lane be introduced.
 - ii) Zones combining residential parking and pay & display be introduced at various points along The Front, The Cliff and Coronation Drive.
 - iii) The existing limited waiting zones situated near the main area of shops, take-aways and businesses at The Front be retained and the free parking time allowed be increased from 20 minutes to 30 minutes.
 - iv) Designated business parking bays will be offered free of charge throughout the duration of the trial period.
 - v) That during the trial period, residents in the proposed new resident parking zones will be offered up to two permits per

property free of charge. If required, further permits can be provided at a cost consistent with the current incremental permit charge rate.

- vi) That those households in the designated area of Seaton Carew that were already in a Resident Parking Zone receive an extension to their current permits to bring them in line with this cost for 2017/18. With any balancing amount remaining being carried over to 2018/19.
 - vii) The car park at Seaton Park remains free of charge but a clock disc system be introduced which limits visitor parking to one hour.
3. That parking charges at Seaton Carew be set at £1 for up to 2 hours, £1.50 for up to 4 hours and £2 for all day. These charges to apply between 8am and 8pm, every day (including Sundays and Bank Holidays) between 1st April 2017 and 31st October 2017.
 4. That an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order be placed covering all parking proposals at Seaton Carew which were agreed by the Committee.
 5. That a series of public consultation meetings be held throughout the summer season and the views obtained be included as part of a review of the experimental scheme to commence in October 2017. Details of this review will be reported to the Committee to enable them to determine permanent arrangements for car parking in Seaton Carew.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business the Chair announced a short comfort break to allow a number of attendees to leave the meeting.

78. Council Plan 2017/19 – 2019/20 (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to set out the Council's ambitions for the Borough and the strategic plan for achieving this. Specifically, the Committee is asked to consider the draft proposals that have been identified for inclusion in the Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20 which are of relevance to the remit of the Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported on the background to the Council's ambitions for the Borough and the key strategic objectives underpinned by a number of key deliverables as outlined in the report. The report provided the detailed proposals for the Council Plan and sought the Committee's views on the proposed key deliverables, milestones and performance measures, that fell under the remit of the Neighbourhood Services Committee, as set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 4.

The proposals were being considered by each of the Policy Committees over the coming weeks. A further report would be prepared for the Finance and Policy Committee on 6 March 2017 detailing the comments /observations of each of the Committees along with a final draft of the 2017/18- 2019/20 Council Plan. The format of the published Council Plan would be different to previous years and the intention was to prepare a more accessible version for the people of Hartlepool. Through the production of this summary version it was hoped to respond to the views expressed in the Your Say, Our Future exercise.

Clarification was provided in response to issues raised in relation to the measures in place to improve sustainable transport. The Chair provided background information in terms of previous discussions with bus operators and decisions that had been taken around public transport provision in the town.

The Director advised that she had received a query from the Regeneration Services Committee regarding the Waste and Recycling performance indicators in relation to reducing the amount of waste collected and the amount to be recycled and could confirm the figures quoted within the Council Plan were accurate.

Decision

- (i) That the proposals identified for inclusion in the Council Plan 2016/17, as set out in Appendices 2 and 4, be supported and be utilised to formulate a response on behalf of the Committee for consideration by the Finance and Policy Committee.
- (ii) The Committee noted that the draft Council Plan would be taken to each of the Policy Committees for consultation with the final draft of the Council Plan, incorporating the comments made today and by the other Policy Committees and would be presented to Finance and Policy Committee on 6 March for consideration and approval and then taken to full Council on 23 March 2017 for final approval.

79. Draft Clean and Green Strategy (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To agree a Clean and Green Strategy for Hartlepool.

To consider recommending approval of the Clean and Green Strategy for Council.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Head of Community and Engagement referred to Committee's approval in October 2016 of the draft strategy and eight week consultation period. Feedback from those participating in the consultation was on the whole very positive and, almost without exception, everyone agreed the need for the strategy.

Members were provided with feedback from the consultation, as detailed in the report. Given that the majority of respondents were supportive of the strategy, its overall aims and objectives, it was proposed that these remain the same as in the first draft of the strategy presented to Committee in October. However, following feedback and to emphasise the Council's leadership role in delivering clean and green services, it was suggested that the aims of the strategy be reworded as follows:-

To create a cleaner and greener environment the Council aims to:

- Provide strong leadership by carrying out its own role efficiently and effectively
- Build productive partnerships and develop a sense of shared responsibility
- Support individual citizens as active participants in looking after the environment.

It was also proposed that the strategy be amended to include reference to securing the preservation, protection and development of features of historic interest. Comments made during the consultation on what action be undertaken by the Council and partners had been used to develop the strategy and action plan, attached at Appendix A. Monitoring of the proposed strategy and action plan would be the responsibility of this Committee. Details of the monitoring arrangements were provided.

Decision

1. That subject to the amendments outlined in section 5 of this report that the second draft of the Clean and Green Strategy and supporting action plan be endorsed.
2. That given the general public support for the draft strategy, the Committee recommended that Council approve the Clean and Green strategy as per the amendments proposed.
3. That updates against the strategy and associated action plan be received by Committee annually.

80. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting would be held on Monday 20 March 2017 at 4.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 5.25 pm.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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