

# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

## MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

25 April 2017

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck, Brenda Loynes and George Springer

Also Present: Councillor C Akers-Belcher

Officers: Tony Hanson, Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services  
Phil Hepburn, Enforcement Services Team Leader  
Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader  
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **92. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Belcher and Hunter.

### **93. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **94. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2017**

Received

### **95. Trentbrooke Avenue Traffic Regulation Order** *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

**Type of decision**

Non-key

## **Purpose of report**

To report on the proposals to mark double yellow lines in Trentbrooke Avenue and to seek a decision from the Committee as objections were received during the Statutory Consultation Period.

## **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director presented the report which provided background information in relation to the ongoing maintenance work required in Trentbrooke Avenue primarily due to vehicles parking on and overriding the area causing damage to the paving flags. In an attempt to provide a longer lasting and more sustainable solution, the Council replaced the concrete flags with tarmac patches. Following a number of complaints from residents, in terms of the aesthetic appearance of the tarmac, the Council returned the footpath to a flagged construction.

As a potential solution to the problem the installation of double yellow lines around each of the bends had been advertised and, as a result of advertising the statutory order, 16 objections had been received. The Committee's consideration of the objections were sought prior to any approval and subsequent implementation of the order.

The main reasons for objections together with the response by officers were provided, as detailed in the report. Objections included concerns that the lines would create more parking problems, there would be a danger to children and that there were currently no problems with parking on these areas.

Members were referred to a number of possible options to address the issue including the installation of bollards, yellow lines, the provision of an alternative type of reinstatement to support parking or no change to the current arrangements.

It was highlighted that the proposal to mark double yellow lines in Trentbrooke Avenue was based on the continued maintenance costs that the Council was incurring. It was also noted that since the area had returned to flags only a few weeks ago, the flags had again been damaged and further maintenance work was likely to be required in the near future.

The Chair circulated a copy of a photograph of the area in question that had been provided by the local Ward Councillor, who was in attendance at the meeting and invited to address the Committee. The Ward Councillor spoke in favour of the proposals and shared with the Committee the concerns of residents that parking at this location created a blind spot for drivers which presented a potential safety risk to children. Should the Committee support the installation of double yellow lines, the Ward Member highlighted the importance of enforcement as well as the need to reinstate the kerb line.

In the discussion that followed, Members considered the objections, various options and views expressed including the feasibility of installing bollards as an alternative. Officers provided clarification in response to queries raised by Members. The Chair acknowledged the damage to the pavement edge and commented on the benefits of reinstating the kerb to its original height. Given the ongoing maintenance issues and potential safety risks, Members were supportive of the recommendations to install double yellow lines as soon as possible. In addition, the Committee requested that the works and costs associated with reinstatement of the kerb be explored with a view to this work being undertaken at a later date.

### **Decision**

- (i) Whilst taking into account the extent of objections received to the proposed parking restrictions, due to the recurring damage to the footpath, it was agreed that the order be approved.
- (ii) That the works and costs associated with reinstatement of the kerb be explored with a view to this work being undertaken at a later date.

## **96. Publicity Campaign to Address Seagull Related Litter** *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To consider and agree a publicity campaign to address seagull related litter.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The report provided background information in relation to the Clean and Green Strategy and action plan which incorporated an action to develop a campaign to address issues of litter associated with seagulls. Details of the problems associated with feeding seagulls was provided as well as information on the proposed 'Don't Feed the Seagulls' campaign. The campaign aimed to educate and raise awareness of the problems associated with people feeding food waste to seagulls in the hope they would refrain from doing so in the future.

Members were referred to the proposed signage, promotion activities and communication materials as set out in the report. It was reported that the signage would be installed, and other materials printed, ready for the launch event to take place during May half term. The Committee was advised of

the risk, financial and legal considerations, as outlined in the report.

In response to concerns by a member of the public that a neighbour was continuing to feed the seagulls despite reminders from the local housing association on the implications of such practices, the Assistant Director agreed to investigate this issue following the meeting.

The Committee went on to discuss the importance of education campaigns of this type and the various methods of publicising this issue which should include Hartbeat and GP surgeries. Members were of the view that the communication campaign should also include schools and be extended to include the Marina area. The Public Relations Officer provided details of the proposed PR campaign which would include a piece in Hartbeat.

### **Decision**

The Committee approved the implementation of the “Don’t Feed the Seagulls” Campaign.

## **97. Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign**

*(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Neighbourhood Services Committee of a change in legislation regarding dog control measures, including the process and statutory obligations required to make a Public Space Protection Order.

To inform of the intention to develop a ‘Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign’.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director reported on the background to a change in legislation around dog control measures and the requirement for Public Space Protection Orders. There were currently 5 dog control orders in place across Hartlepool, details of which were set out in the report and the existing orders would automatically become Public Space Protection Orders in October of this year.

The Council would be required to replace any signage, including fixed

penalty notice documents, produce a press release to reflect the new legislation, introduce a 'Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign' and seek the views of the public on any additional measures the Council believed would enhance enforcement powers. The campaign would include, but would not be limited to, identification and targeting of "hot spot" areas and installation of signage linked to the high profile "Irresponsible Dog Owners We are Watching You" Campaign from Keep Britain Tidy.

Officers responded to issues raised in relation to protection issues. In response to a query raised, the Committee was advised that the current dog control orders in place would be replaced by Public Space Protection Orders. The importance of public involvement in this campaign was highlighted and the various methods of publicising the campaign were discussed. The Chair reported that dog fouling was a high priority area for residents in the town. Clarification was provided in relation to the reporting and enforcement arrangements and emphasis was placed upon the reliance on the public to report any areas of concern to enable accurate records to be maintained and resources directed accordingly.

### **Decision**

That the development of a 'Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign' that supports the transition across from Dog Control Orders to Public Space Protection Orders in October 2017 be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 3.25 pm.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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