

# **CULTURE, LEISURE AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO**

## **DECISION RECORD**

9<sup>th</sup> October 2006

### **Present:**

Councillor Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services  
Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager  
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)  
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

### **44. Closure of Public Footpath for Reasons of Public Safety** *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key

#### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the need to close the Britmag Public Footpath No. 31 under emergency powers for Health and Safety reasons.

#### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report detailed the current findings relating to vandalism which had exposed potentially live cabling running under the footpath and the actions taken to maintain a safe public environment. The report advised of the Emergency Temporary Closure from 22<sup>nd</sup> September until 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

The Electricity provider, NEDL, had been informed and their engineer had examined the site on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2006. Their investigations had revealed that in all probability that the remaining cut sections of the cables were not live but the Engineer had not officially endorsed this. The ongoing situation in relation to NEDL was detailed in the report. To date the response from NEDL had been that "In normal situations NEDL would not remove abandoned cables". It had been pointed out to them by the

Council that the current circumstances were not normal and needed to be addressed in the wider context of danger to the Public's Health and Safety and the impact on a Public Right of Way.

Photographs, a map of the area and a copy of the Temporary Closure notice were attached as appendices to the report.

The Assistant Director reported verbally that the Police were monitoring the situation but no-one had been apprehended for the vandalism and the Council still awaited NEDL's further response.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder:

- (a) noted the implementation of the Emergency Temporary Closure of Footpath No. 31.
- (b) approved the issue of a Temporary Closure of the Footpath until reconstruction takes place, should the need arise.

## **45. Tees Archaeology: Publication of books on the Archaeology of Hartlepool** *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To set out proposals to publish two books on the Archaeology of Hartlepool, one dealing with the Anglo-/Saxon Monastery of St Hilda and the other with the Medieval Town. Publication to be jointly funded by English Heritage, Hartlepool Borough Council and Tees Archaeology.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The reported provided background information and set out the details of the two books and the likely costs involved in their publication.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder

- (a) welcomed the production of the two volumes on the archaeology of the town
- (b) agreed that the Department of Adult and Community Services provide funding of c£6000 (c.£3000 per volume) towards the publication of the books from the Arts and Museums Service budget but that efforts be made to obtain part funding from the North Hartlepool Partnership if possible.

**46. Loan of Painting “Giant Head, Ben” by Nahem Shoa**  
(Director of Adult and Community Services)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To request retrospective confirmation of approval for the loan of the painting ‘Giant Head, Ben’ by Nahem Shoa from the museums permanent collection.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report referred to approval for the loan of the painting ‘Giant Head, Ben’ by Nahem Shoa for an exhibition of his work at Bury Museum and Art Gallery in the exhibition “Facing Yourself”.

**Decision**

The Portfolio approved the loan of the painting.

**47. Loan of Lucian Freud Painting “Head of a Woman” and Frank Auerbach Painting “Shell Building Site”**  
(Director of Adult and Community Services)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To request the loan of Freud painting “Head of a Woman” and the Auerbach painting “Shell Building Site” from museum collections.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report outlined the request for the loan of the paintings “Head of a Woman” and “Shell Building Site” to the Herbert Art Gallery in Coventry for the exhibition “Uncompromising Study” from 3<sup>rd</sup> February – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

**Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved the loan of the paintings.

**48. Revised Fares Arriva Supported Bus Contracts** (*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To seek approval from the Portfolio Holder to apply revised fares on the Council's supported Arriva Contracted bus services.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report provided background information and contained a table of the Revised Fares Scales on Arriva bus Contracts. There were no financial implications to the Borough Council as a result of the proposed fare rise.

**Decision**

The Portfolio Holder gave approval to apply a fares increase on the Council's supported Arriva contracted bus services within Hartlepool.

**49. Request to Introduce Residents Only Parking – Thornhill Place** (*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To seek Portfolio Holder consideration of a request from residents of Thornhill Place to introduce resident only parking.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report described the area and indicated that a petition signed by fourteen residents had been received by officers, and passed to the Portfolio Holder, requesting the introduction of parking controls. The reasons that had been given by those signing the petition were included in the report. A location plan indicating the area covered by the request was appended to the report.

The report detailed, for the Portfolio Holder's information, the consideration that had been given on the issues raised.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder refused the request for the following reasons.

- (a) the creation of a resident permit zone is unlikely to solve the congestion problems of Thornhill Place - limited visitor parking would still be permitted and controls could only be enforced during the hours Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm;
- (b) this is a new request and not part of the previously approved residents consultation programme, which should take preference on the grounds of both need and waiting period;
- (c) alternative options should be considered including prohibiting parking close to the junctions;
- (d) excessive inconsiderate parking should continue to be monitored in relation to parent school parking, parking from shoppers and vehicle repairs and its impact assessed;
- (e) that this issue be given further consideration at the Parking Consultative Group.

## **50. Templeton Close – Request for Traffic Calming** *(Head of Technical Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To seek consideration of a request for traffic calming on Templeton Close.

### **Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report detailed the action requested, the investigations into the request and the recommended course of action.

The Portfolio Holder was reminded that the Council prioritises potential safety schemes, primarily on the basis of the number of accidents on a road, and then by the level of speeding recorded during surveys. The current list of roads eligible for schemes was appended to the report.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder noted the request and investigations and agreed that no further action be taken at this time but, as with all roads, the accident record should continue to be monitored.

**51. Speeding Drive – Traffic Regulation Orders** (*Head of Technical Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To seek a decision on whether the heights of speed humps on Speeding Drive should be altered.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The report detailed the background to the scheme and the investigations into the objections submitted. The financial implications were also outlined.

**Decision**

The Portfolio Holder agreed that one of the existing road humps remain in place but that the hump closest to the tunnel be replaced by a 75mm high road hump.

**52. Northern Children's Book Festival Gala** (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

**Type of decision**

For information

**Purpose of report**

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the Northern Children's Book Festival Gala which was to be hosted in Hartlepool.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Northern Children's Book festival is the largest children's free annual book festival in Europe and had been running successfully for 23 years. Drawing on funding from publishers and other sources, a programme of author visits to schools and libraries would take place in Hartlepool and throughout the North East between November 6<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup>. The Festival culminates with a regional Gala Day.

This year, for the first time, the Gala would be held in Hartlepool, at St Hild's C of E School on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Gala Day was being organised by the town's Library Service with funding from the Library, from Children's Services and from the Northern Children's Book

Festival. Over 3000 children and families are expected to attend. The Festival is a unique opportunity for children and parents to meet and be entertained by some of the nation's most popular children's authors. Northern Children's Book Festival and the Gala Day generate family and children's interest in reading and literacy. The event meets outcomes for Every Child Matters and Inspiring Learning for All

**Decision**

The Portfolio noted the contents of the report.

**53. Family Learning Week – Hartlepool Libraries** *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

**Type of decision**

For information

**Purpose of report**

To inform the Portfolio Holder of Family Learning Week activities in the library.

**Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder**

The Portfolio Holder was advised that Family Learning Week is a national annual event. During the last two years, within Family Learning Week, Hartlepool Libraries had focussed on the promotion of science and physics. The main event is a family day in the Central Library, which includes a Starlab planetarium, interactive treasure hunt, science show and scientific discovery storytelling. The science events are sponsored by the Institute of Physics and the event is delivered in partnership with HCFE. There are also a number of other key skills promoted in a family friendly way by Adult Education. The event had been extremely successful last year, attracting some 2500 visitors and it was hoped that 2006 would build on this achievement. The event would be held at Central Library on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Central Library and all the events for Family Learning Weekend are accessible to all.

**Decision**

The Portfolio Holder noted the content of the report.

**J A BROWN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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