

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

25 February 2019

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

Present:

Councillor: Stephen Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Tom Cassidy, Marjorie James, Brenda Loynes, Ann Marshall and Tony Richardson

Officers: Tony Hanson, Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services
Phil Hepburn, Environmental Enforcement Team Leader
Kieran Bostock, Transport and Infrastructure Manager
Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader
Sylvia Pinkney, Head of Public Protection
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

60. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Sandra Belcher who had recently been in hospital. A Member requested that the Committee's best wishes be conveyed to Councillor Belcher.

61. Declarations of Interest

None.

62. Minutes of the meeting held on January 2019

Received.

63. St Aidan's Stockton Road – Proposed Puffin Crossing *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To report objections to the proposed puffin crossing at St Aidan's School, Stockton Road (See Appendix 1).

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that following several requests from Ward Members it was proposed to introduce a puffin crossing on the section of carriageway immediately north east of the Loyalty Road junction, 2-3m east of the existing school crossing patrol point, as set out in Appendix 1. Double yellow lines would also be introduced on the north side of Stockton Road extending from the end of the controlled zone to a point past the frontage of No 144. This was in response to one of the comments received in the consultation exercise.

The initial consultation exercise undertaken showed 74 people in favour of the crossing and 4 against, although this was part of a wider consultation exercise which also included proposals for Westbrooke Avenue and other parts of Stockton Road. Residential properties in close proximity to the crossing, St. Aidan's School, The Greensides Public House and Local Ward Members had subsequently been consulted, of which 2 objections had been received.

A further objection had also been received at a later date. One of the initial objections had since been resolved by the proposed introduction of double yellow lines. The remaining objectors were concerned that the proposed crossing would cause a road safety hazard, details of which were included in the report. The original objector had requested that an independent safety audit be carried out which had identified that, in view of right turning manoeuvres, which could be undertaken by large vehicles, the crossing could benefit from being moved slightly to the east. This could be done without having a significant effect on the proposed scheme and would be addressed during the detailed design of the scheme.

The scheme would be funded from the existing Local Transport Plan budget allocation and the estimated cost would be approximately £50,000.

In response to a query raised regarding the timescales for implementation of the scheme and a suggestion that this be implemented prior to the new school term in September, the Committee was advised that it was envisaged the works would commence early in the next financial year following detailed design.

Decision

That the proposed puffin crossing at St. Aidan's, Stockton Road be approved.

64. Evaluation of Seaton Parking Scheme (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider and evaluate the impact of the seasonal parking restrictions at Seaton Carew.

Members requested a twelve month review at the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee on the 22nd January 2018, specifically to consider if the parking discs used on sections of the Sea Front and Station Lane car park should continue to be provided to motorists free of charge.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director presented the report which provided background information to the decision taken in December 2016 by the Committee to introduce seasonal car parking charges at Seaton Carew under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order and subsequent agreement of an amended Traffic Regulation Order on 22 January 2018 and the request to consider if the limited stay parking discs used on sections of the Sea Front and Station Lane car park should continue to be provided to motorists free of charge.

It was reported that whilst disc parking had allowed self-regulating managed short stay parking provision on areas of the Front and in Seaton Park, the benefits of which were set out in the report, the production and supply of discs currently costs the Council £6,000 per annum. While there was no encouragement for the re-use of discs, given that they were currently available free of charge, the present arrangements were not environmentally sustainable. Other local authorities that offered similar disc parking arrangements had introduced a nominal charge with the aim of encouraging the re-use of the discs, meaning the numbers required each year diminished as people re-used and recycled their existing disc.

The Committee was advised that a total of fourteen dedicated parking

spaces had been initially set aside for business use. However, following further consultation with businesses, this was later increased to meet perceived demand incorporating the nine pay and display parking bays directly outside Seaton Bus Station. In 2018, and once the £204 permit charge came applicable, demand substantially decreased. It was therefore proposed to re-designate the nine parking bays as pay and display parking spaces, with the fourteen bays on the beach slip road and the sea front service road remaining as designated business parking spaces.

The existing white hatching down the centre of the carriageway along The Front would be reviewed by the Council's Highway Department. Given the presence of the parking lay-bys and the condition of the existing road markings, consideration would be given to either removing or not renewing these markings.

In the discussion that followed a Member suggested that a £1.00 nominal charge for parking discs be introduced. In response to clarification sought, the Chair advised that discs of this type could be used in other local authority areas. Members welcomed the report and were supportive of the recommendations as well as the proposal to introduce a £1.00 nominal charge for parking discs to cover the costs associated with the production and distribution of parking discs and to encourage re-use of the discs.

Decision

- (i) That a charge be introduced of £1.00 to cover the costs associated with the production and distribution costs of the parking discs operational in the limited stay parking areas at the Front and within Station Lane Car Park.
- (ii) That the additional business permit bays created outside Seaton Bus Station be revoked and revert back to pay and display bays.
- (iii) That the existing centre hatched carriageway markings be reviewed.

65. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 18 March 2019 at 4.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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