

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

12th December 2006

Present:

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

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager
Denise Ogden, Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management
Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
Steve Hilton, Assistant Public Relations Officer
Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

Councillors Steve Gibbon and Geoff Lilley and Miss Joan Smith of Fens Residents Association were in attendance and allowed to speak on Minute 80 below.

Also present were Mr R Rigg, Mr A E Jobson, Mr & Mrs Johnson, Mandy Loynes, Dennis Loynes, Brenda Lloyds and George Harrison. Mr Harrison and Mr Rigg were allowed to speak on minute 82 below.

Also present was Mr Dave Sutheran who was allowed to speak on minute 86 below.

74. Race for Life (Cancer Research UK) Event *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of a proposed Race for Life (Cancer Research UK) Event to be staged in Hartlepool on Sunday, 17th June, 2007.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report provided Information on the background to the establishment of such events, and provided details on the proposed race to take place in Hartlepool on Sunday 17th June 2007, starting at 11am. The race was being supported by Tesco. The report also gave information relating to possible numbers of participants and spectators, the need for more volunteers, the proposed route, risk assessment and financial implications.

Also outlined were discussions that had taken place between Cancer Research UK and Officers from Community Services and Highways, as well as Burn Road Harriers and Pansies, a women's cancer support group based in Hartlepool.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder supported the staging of this significant event in Hartlepool. He commented that Cancer Research is an excellent charity and wished to thank Tesco for supporting the race.

75. Development of Horticultural Project at Waverley Terrace *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of a proposal to allocate allotment land at the Waverley Terrace site to Hartlepool Integrated Mental Health Services in order to develop a horticultural project involving service user volunteers.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report advised that the Allotment Site at Waverley had recently been refurbished to create a new 13 plot site with a metal 2.4m vertical bar railing perimeter fence in order to address site security and improve the visual impact of the allotments in regards to the adjacent properties.

Hartlepool Integrated Mental Health Services had identified a group of Service User Volunteers who would like to develop an area of allotment land to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. This produce would be used by their friends and families as well as being outlet to the local food co-operatives in the more disadvantaged areas of Hartlepool. This would have beneficial outcomes for the service users in terms of increased confidence, self esteem and skills development, as well as benefiting the wider community and supporting the healthy eating agenda.

Details of the proposal were provided together with a proposed site plan showing plots currently occupied.

The Portfolio Holder said he thought this was an excellent idea and asked if an area could be made available for children of Kingsley and Brierton School children to use. The Assistant Director advised that Kingsley school have their own site and Brierton had been offered a site at Stranton or could possibly use a school site. Officers were actively engaged in trying to get sites established.

Decision

Approval was given by the Portfolio Holder to establish a Horticultural Project in Hartlepool, subject to the required funding being acquired by the Hartlepool Integrated Mental Health Services Team.

76. Rossmere Way Pitches – Resident Survey Relating to New Fencing Proposals and Extension of Land Use *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the results of the recent resident survey undertaken in relation to a proposal submitted by St Francis 2000 FC relating to new fencing proposals and an extension of land use.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report advised that St Francis 2000 FC had been given a 25 year lease of Rossmere Way Recreation Ground in January, 2006 following approval given by the Portfolio Holder in April, 2005 and a successful planning application by Hartlepool Borough Council Community Services. Due to the continued growth of the Club, particularly within its junior section, an application has been submitted to extend the lease in terms of the land occupied in order to accommodate an additional junior football pitch, as well as erecting a secure fence around the perimeter of the site. The Club has grown significantly since the existing lease was granted and this growth has been rewarded with the awarding of the status of FA Charter Standard (Community Club Status) – the first club in Hartlepool to be awarded this accreditation. This was achieved in October 2006. A public consultation has been undertaken with 219 residential properties bordering Rossmere Way Recreation Ground receiving a copy of the proposed plans and an accompanying survey.

Further detailed information was provided in the report and a plan of the area and consultation results were included as appendices.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder noted the results of the consultation undertaken and endorsed the proposed extension of land use and that further discussions on the adjacent school take place.

77. Football Development Programme – Progress Update *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder of progress made with the delivery to date of the Football Development Programme in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Since the establishment of an externally funded Football Development Officer post in February 2005, significant progress has been made with the development of football across Hartlepool. This report updated the Portfolio Holder on progress made and highlights key achievements.

The Football Development Programme Year 2 was attached as an appendix.

There would be no financial implications arising out of the programme for the Council but the Portfolio Holder was asked to note that the programme was externally funded until August 2009 only and whilst a key area of the development programme was to create sustainability, the Football Development Officer post and development programme would cease unless alternative funding could be found.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report and recognised the excellent work carried out by David Burns, the Football Development Officer. He requested that David be thanked for his work and commitment.

78. Proposed Residents Only Parking Scheme – Eamont Gardens, Belmont Gardens, Eldon Grove and part Elwick Road *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request consideration of the introduction of residents only permit parking controls on Eamont Gardens, Belmont Gardens, Eldon Grove and part Elwick Road.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the background and considered the results of a consultation exercise that had taken place with residents. The financial implications were outlined and a plan of the area was provided.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder rejected the request to create a residents only permit parking zone for Eamont Gardens, Belmont Gardens, Eldon Grove and part Elwick Road for the following reasons:

- (a) insufficient residents support the proposal;
- (b) residents consider the parking problems exist outside of the core enforcement hours;
- (c) an ongoing education awareness and traffic enforcement programme should continue to tackle the traffic demands at school collection times;
- (d) that the ongoing situation be monitored.

79. Proposed Residents Only Parking Scheme – Houghton Street/Whitburn Street/Elwick Road *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request consideration of the introduction of residents only permit parking controls on Houghton Street, Whitburn Street and Elwick Road.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the background and considered the results of a consultation exercise, which had taken place with residents. The financial implications were outlined and a plan of the area was provided.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:

- (a) approved the creation of a resident's only permit zone for Houghton Street, Whitburn Street and Elwick Road;
- (b) requested that the necessary legal orders be advertised;
- (c) that the effect of traffic displacement be monitored.

80. Petition against Closure of Footpaths, Fens Estate

(Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise on the receipt of a 1000 name petition against the closure of footpaths and a back street on the Fens Estate.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained details of petition and a brief history of the closures objected to.

The Portfolio Holder indicated that he had received the petition. He advised those present that in June 2006 he had agreed to the principal of applying to a Magistrates Court for the stopping-up of two footpath links on Fens Estate, namely in Brandon Close and Aldeburgh Close, subject to the availability of funding. There had been no plans for steel gates.

Councillor Gibbon and Lilley and a representative of Fens Residents Association gave their view and advised that many people had signed the petition because those had received false information about what was to happen. The Councillors and Fens Residents Association representative's support for the stopping-up order was reiterated.

Councillor Gibbon indicated that residents had also raised the issue of Upton Walk with him. The Transportation and Traffic Manager agreed that Upton walk was not a thoroughfare. He confirmed that this issue had not yet officially been presented to the Portfolio Holder but a report would be presented shortly.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged receipt of the petition and noted the views of the speakers at the Portfolio meeting.

81. Proposed Residents Only Parking Scheme – Marske Street, The Maltings, Redcar close and Blakelock Gardens *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request consideration of the introduction of residents only permit parking controls on Marske Street, The Maltings, Redcar Close and Blakelock Gardens.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the background and considered the results of a consultation exercise, which had taken place with residents. The financial implications were outlined and a plan of the area was provided.

The Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that Ward Councillors had requested this scheme but accepted that there was no clear evidence either way. The Portfolio Holder requested that Officers of Neighbourhood Management and Highways monitor the situation jointly in an effort to find an acceptable solution.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder requested that further consultation and investigations be undertaken.

82. Mountston Close Alleygate - Update *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise on the latest developments in respect of the alleygate located in Mountston Close, (temporarily removed), and the implications of the Council's new Thoroughfare Policy on the situation.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report and appended Thoroughfare Policy provided an update on developments in this location. The Portfolio Holder was advised that investigations were ongoing.

The Portfolio Holder advised those present that, although there had been speculation in the press about what would happen, there had been no “done deal”. Any future decisions would be made at this Portfolio. He felt that progress had been made on the estate and the Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management advised the meeting that Officers were working with residents and the Head Teacher of High Tunstall who was to pilot an educational enforcement policy. Plans were in hand to look at activities for young people and everyone seemed to be working together. It was accepted that it is early days and those trying to solve the problems could not be complacent. Should the discussions/activities fail to resolve the situation the Thoroughfare Policy would permit, as a last resort, the erection of a gate under the new Gating Order legislation..

Mr Harrison and Mr Rigg gave their views and although it was accepted that there had been massive improvements there were still problems that needed to be resolved in the area.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the current position

83. NDC – Proposed Schemes 2006/07 (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of traffic schemes funded through New Deal for Communities.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the background to the schemes and the proposals put forward. The proposals related to the following and information was provided on each:

- ? Sheriff Street Area Traffic Calming;
- ? Southburn Terrace – Traffic Calming;
- ? Rear of Stockton Road – Parking Bays.

Consultation detailed were provided.

The schemes outlined would be funded through NDC budgets.

Decision

Portfolio holder approved the implementation of the schemes.

84. School Zones – Proposed Schemes 2006/07 (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the proposals to implement school zones and associated road safety measures on Elwick Road and Owton Manor Lane.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the background to the schemes and the proposals put forward. The proposals related to the following and information was provided on each:

- ? Owton Manor Lane - £14,500;
- ? Elwick Road - £12,500.

Consultation information was provided.

The schemes would be funded through the Local Transport Plan;

Decision

The Portfolio holder approved the implementation of the schemes.

85. Serpentine Road, Request for the Gating of Footpath between Wooler Road and St Bega's Glade, Consultation Results (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise on the results of a consultation exercise in respect of the request to gate the footpath section of Serpentine Road between Wooler

Road and St Bega's Glade and the implications of the new Council Thoroughfare Policy on the situation.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The reported advised that on 9th May 2006 the Council had received a petition, signed by 43 people, and entitled "Petition for the closure of link access way, Wooler Road to Serpentine Road". Plans of the areas were provided for information. A report had been submitted to this Portfolio in June 2006 detailing the petition at which time the decision had been that Officers should investigate the implementation of a Gating Order under the new legislation introduced through the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Details of the comprehensive consultation exercise were provided in the report and appendix 3 and the Portfolio Holder was reminded that Council had approved the new Thoroughfare Policy, at appendix 2, the contents of which had a direct effect on the situation. The report advised that the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the Hartlepool Local Plan 2006 both contain policy statements relating to pedestrian facilities and details of Policy Tra8 in the Local Plan were outlined in the report.

A table of crime and disorder figures was provided and the Portfolio Holder was reminded that the area had been subject to a POP and a temporary CCTV camera had been erected. Feedback as to the effectiveness of these measures has been positive and the Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management was actively seeking funding for the erection of a permanent CCTV installation as a result of this. The cost of the installation of a permanent CCTV camera in the area would be in the region of £20,000 and a mobile CCTV for the central area would be £8,000. The Neighbourhood Policing Central Joint Action Group had agreed in principle to fund the latter but was awaiting actual costings.

With regard to the Thoroughfare Policy many of the recommendations contained within it had, and were, being followed, however no recommendation had yet been received from the Police that gating would be the only solution to this situation.

Decision

The Portfolio noted the report and the results of the consultation exercise and agreed that the Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management should continue to seek funding for the erection of a CCTV camera in this location and that the situation continue to be monitored in accordance with the Thoroughfare Policy criteria.

86. Tower Street Traffic Regulation Order – Objection
(Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the traffic regulation following objections relating to the rear of Lloyds Bar/Public House, Church Square.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

This report details the information collected in relation to the objection on the Tower Street Traffic Regulation Order. A plan of the area and a copy of the objection letter was attached to the report.

The objector was in attendance at the Portfolio meeting and gave his views. The Portfolio Holder asked if an alternative could be investigated. The Acting Head of Neighbourhood Management indicated that she would work with Highways Section in an attempt to find an alternative way forward. The Head of Technical Services spoke on the Council's duty to the emergency services to enable access to areas and advised that it could be difficult to find a solution but investigations would be undertaken.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder requested that implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order be deferred to allow time for an alternative solution to be investigated.

87. Westwood Way – Traffic Calming (Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of traffic calming on Westwood Way.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report details the background to the scheme and the proposals put forward. The financial implications were included in the report and a plan of the area was provided.

Decision

The Portfolio holder approves the implementation of the scheme as detailed in section 3 of the report.

88. Hartlepool Railway Station Improvements (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide information on the Council's successful application for Government 'Access for All Small Schemes Funding' for Hartlepool Railway Station and seek approval to deliver these improvements as a separate element from the Hartlepool Transport Interchange project.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained background information on the Government's 'Access for All Small Schemes Funding' round and detailed the project to improve infrastructure at Hartlepool Railway Station which would enable more disabled people to access the national rail network.

The report advised that the Council had worked with the local rail operator, Northern Rail, to complete the detailed design of improvements to passenger waiting facilities as an integral part of the Interchange project. The proposed improvements include:

- ? new accessible toilet facilities;
- ? new automatic sliding external doors;
- ? low height ticket counter;
- ? improved lighting;
- ? anti slip surfaces;
- ? new customer information screens;
- ? upgrading of external/ internal signage;
- ? audio communication system and counter loop system; and
- ? a new pedestrian walkway providing level access between the railway station and the Transport Interchange.

External works to the fabric of the railway station building would be delivered as part of the Hartlepool Transport Interchange project, including dropped kerbs, tactile surfaces, and disabled parking facilities. Northern Rail had agreed to deliver the scheme for which a procurement approach had been agreed and a single contractor had been identified to undertake the works. The current programme was to start construction in March 2007 with anticipated completion in May 2007.

The Council had originally allocated LTP capital funding totalling £250,000 to improve passenger waiting facilities within the railway station building. The Government's 'Access for All Small Schemes' funding provides an additional £50,000 towards the station improvements, reduces the Council's contribution to £150,000 and releases £100,000 to cover additional elements that were not originally planned as part of the Interchange project.

A requirement of the 'Access for All Small Schemes' funding was that the scheme must be substantially complete before the 31st March 2007. Given the continued delay in negotiating legal agreements required for the Interchange project, the railway station improvements must be delivered as a separate element from the Interchange project.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:

- (a) approved the delivery of the planned improvements to Hartlepool Railway Station as a separate element to the Hartlepool Transport Interchange project.
- (b) Commented that this was vital for the town's expansion and thanked all the staff who had been involved in the scheme.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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