

STEPPING HILL AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting: 20 April 2021

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Paul Ankers (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Grace Baynham (Vice-Chair); Councillors Lou Ankers, Laura Booth, Will Dawson, Charles Gibson, Wendy Meikle, Mark Weldon and John Wright.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interest was declared:-

Personal Interests

Councillor

Interest

Charles Gibson	Agenda Item 4 (v) 'Ward Flexibility Funding – Hazel Grove Cricket Club' as he had discussed wider fundraising work with the organisation.
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3. URGENT DECISIONS

No urgent decisions were reported.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(i) Chair's Announcements

The chair thanked Councillor Booth for her nine years of service to the area committee and the wider borough in advance of her forthcoming retirement from the Council.

(ii) Public Question Time

Members of the public were invited to submit questions to the Chair of the Area Committee on any matters within the powers and duties of the Area Committee.

Five public questions were submitted as follows:-

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- Relating to a lack of parking enforcement officers on Aber Avenue and what the reasons for a lack of enforcement of permitted parking were.
- Relating to whether the new residents' parking policy had been devised by elected members or by council officers.
- Relating to the new resident's parking policy and why it was being implemented despite significant concerns from local residents with the pilot scheme.
- Relating to whether the area committee agreed with the idea that the new parking policy would have a punitive financial effect on local residents.
- Relating to the implementation of residents' feedback into the new parking policy and whether the area committee could guarantee a reintroduction of parking enforcement in the Stepping Hill area.

The Chair agreed to exercise his discretion under the Constitution to group these questions together on the grounds that they were similar in nature and all related to the same topic.

The following comments were made /issues raised:-

- It was commented that high costs and significant time commitment were limiting factors in the level of parking enforcement available to monitor free parking schemes. However, residents were encouraged to report any ongoing issues directly to the council and consideration would be given to targeted enforcement on a case-by-case basis.
- Concern was expressed that local residents did not feel that they had been heard on this issue despite having strongly opposed the parking scheme during the consultation process.
- Members supported the notion that the area around Stepping Hill Hospital required a bespoke solution due to the significant local pressures on parking spaces for residents, citing the examples of Aber Avenue and Ripley Avenue. It was emphasised that the overall borough-wide parking policy would need to be more adaptable in order to accommodate local needs in Stepping Hill.
- Members suggested that it was unlikely that further funding would become available from central government in the long term for an improved parking scheme at Stepping Hill Hospital. It was noted that a solution would have to be found at a local level and that this would be best achieved by cooperating more closely with local MPs and the relevant cabinet member on this issue.

5. RESIDENT PARKING POLICY UPDATE

A representative of the Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the updated Residents Parking Policy that had been approved by the Cabinet in December 2020.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- There was limited enforcement of existing residents permit parking schemes, and it was queried whether residents could provide evidence of parking contraventions. In response it was stated that 'free schemes' would continue to receive limited

enforcement, and that residents should report any issues so that enforcement could be targeted appropriately.

- It was noted that responsibility for initiating schemes lay with area committees and this introduced new pressures on the already limited ward delegated budgets which had not seen any increase to fund these proposals.
- It was commented that resident parking schemes needed to become self-funding and cost-neutral to the Council and any revenue generated would be reinvested into the maintenance and enforcement of the schemes.
- The cost to area committees' budgets would be different depending on the nature of the proposed scheme.
- Members questioned whether the decision-making around potential parking schemes would be member, officer or resident led. It was commented that decisions would be led by member discussions in the first instance, with officers assisting to balance the needs of the area. It was noted that the aim of this was to provide more adaptable and bespoke schemes for local residents.
- Consideration needed to be given to the arrangements for the provision of permits for carers as they may need to park in multiple schemes across the borough to provide essential care and should not be subject to unreasonable costs or inconvenience to do so.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Chair write to the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport detailing the concerns expressed by the Area Committee with regard to the updated Resident Parking Policy.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (continued)

(i) Petitions

No petitions were submitted.

(ii) Open Forum

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) reported that no organisations had indicated that they wished to address the Area Committee as part of the Open Forum arrangements.

(iii) Ward Flexibility Funding - Hazel Grove Cricket Club

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) reported on the receipt of an application received on behalf of Hazel Grove Cricket Club for a grant from the Ward Flexibility Budget towards the cost of purchasing an electronic scoreboard.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to an application received from Hazel Grove Cricket Club for a grant of £1000 from the Ward Flexibility Budget towards the cost of purchasing an electronic scoreboard.

7. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Development applications were submitted.

(NOTE: Full details of the decisions including conditions and reasons for granting or refusing planning permission and imposing conditions are given in the schedule of plans. The Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration is authorised to determine conditions and reasons and they are not therefore referred to in committee minutes unless the committee makes a specific decision on a condition or reason. In order to reduce printing costs and preserve natural resources, the schedule of plans is not reproduced within these minutes. A copy of the schedule of plans is available on the council's website at www.stockport.gov.uk/planningdecisions. Copies of the schedule of plans, or any part thereof, may be obtained from the Place Directorate upon payment of the Council's reasonable charges).

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) outlined the procedure for public speaking on planning applications.

(i) **DC076387 - Battersby Court, Old Hall Drive, Offerton**

In respect of plan no. DC076387 for the erection of two residential single-storey apartments to echo and enhance the existing site of retired sheltered accommodation (resubmission of DC/070910) at Battersby Court, Old Hall Drive, Offerton,

a representative of the applicant spoke in support of the application,

It was then

MOVED AND SECONDED – That planning permission be refused on the grounds that the proposed development made inadequate provision for accessible parking, the removal of trees and that it would result in a detrimental impact on residential amenity.

For the motion 2 for, 7 against

MOTION NOT CARRIED

It was then

RESOLVED – (1) (7 for, 1 against, 1 abstention) That the Corporate Director be authorised to determine the application subject to the completion of successful negotiations with the applicant to secure two fully compliant disabled parking spaces within the curtilage of the application site.

(2) That it be noted that in the eventuality that such negotiations were unsuccessful that the matter would be remitted back to the Area Committee for determination.

8. PLANNING APPEALS, ENFORCEMENT APPEALS AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICES

A representative of the Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring

Officer) (copies of which had been circulated) listing any outstanding or recently determined planning appeals and enforcements within the area represented by the Stepping Hill Area Committee area.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. CALL FOR BROWNFIELD SITES 2021

A representative of the Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) confirming that the Council has launched a “call for brownfield sites” to support work on the new Local Plan and providing more information on the activities taking place to promote the current call for brownfield sites exercise.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. LISBURNE LANE, OFFERTON

A representative of the Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a proposal to undertake a design study into constructing a footway over/ across the bell-mouth entry between No. 133A and the Fortune Take-Away premises on Lisburne Lane and to appraise the total costs involved.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the undertaking of a design study into constructing a footway over / across the bell-mouth entry between No. 133A and the Fortune Take-Away premises on Lisburne Lane and appraise the total costs involved at a cost of £750 to be funded from the Area Committee’s Delegated Budget (Offerton ward allocation).

11. PROGRESS ON AREA COMMITTEE DECISIONS

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance and Monitoring Officer) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) to provide an update on progress since the last meeting on decisions taken by the Area Committee and to detail the current position on area flexibility funding. The report also included the current position on the highway and traffic management delegated budget.

It was noted that the area committee balances had been updated in the report for the new financial year with renewed delegated and ward flexibility funding budgets for the area committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm