



A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

9 JUNE 2010

PRESENT:-

P.M. Posnett (Chairman)
P.M. Chandler, A. Freer, M.C.R Graham MBE
M.R. Sheldon, S. Dungworth, D.R. Wright, J. Wyatt

As Observer
Councillor Moncrieff

Corporate Director (KA)
Head of Street Scene and Environment, Chief Accountant
Democratic Services Clerk

C7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean and Holt.

C8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C9. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following Items of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information : Exempt Information) under paragraph 3.

C10. WILTON ROAD: PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Head of Street Scene and Environment submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to determine whether to reopen the former Wilton Road Public Conveniences and how to fund the resulting decision in terms of the associated capital and revenue implications for recommendation to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee.

Councillor Chandler stated that usage of the toilets was low but revenue costs for the facility were high. Councillor Chandler further stated that St Marys Way would be a good drop off point for coaches. Councillor Freer stated that this would put additional strain on the already heavily congested road network in the town.

Councillor Wyatt enquired if funds linked to the Melton Local Development Framework could be used. The Chief Accountant stated that it could be a possibility to fund the one off costs, i.e. repairs and alterations, from reserves but not from the MLDF Reserve as this was a specific reserve. It would, however, be more difficult to fund the ongoing costs.

Councillor Posnett enquired if there had been any progress with advertising. The Head of Street Scene and Environment stated that a meeting had taken place with the Economic Regeneration Manager and advertisers and figures had been supplied for hoardings.

Councillor Posnett suggested that the café be run as a social enterprise project to offset the cost of the toilets and it could fit in with a planned youth business opportunity between the Hub and Pera.

Councillor Wright enquired what the cost of support services would be. The Chief Accountant stated that there may be an increase in support service costs but would be offset by savings elsewhere. There may also be an increase for depreciation but this was reversed out below the net cost of services therefore was not a real cost to the Council.

Councillor Wright enquired if St Mary's Way could be pursued as a drop off point. Councillor Posnett stated that traffic congestion within the town could be a problem.

Councillor Graham stated Members could make a decision next year weighting the decision whether to open the toilets against other priorities. The Head of Street Scene and Environment noted that income from paying customers had been dropping but usage from non-paying customers had been increasing.

Councillor Freer stated that it was important for the toilets to be reopened and noted that the matter could be considered at Full Council. Councillor Graham stated that bus travel to Melton was higher than it has ever been. Councillor Dungworth considered that the Council could not wait another year to make a definitive decision due to the tourism implications.

Councillor Wright stated that the roof would have to be repaired at some stage and this would be a significant cost.

Councillor Posnett proposed opening from 1 July to 30 September, 2 days per week (on a Tuesday and Saturday) with a no charge facility to be implemented, a bare minimum refurbishment and identifying funding streams to support the revenue costs and a roving attendant.

Councillor Freer was a seconder for this motion. Councillor Wyatt enquired how the coach parking would operate. The Head of Street Scene and Environment stated that if possible he would be recommending a charge of £15 per coach.

The Corporate Director suggested that a supplementary estimate be provided from the Corporate Priority Reserve which would in turn be replenished from the funds received from Coach Car parking and advertising revenue.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried with 4 in favour and 3 against.

(Councillors Chandler, Graham and Wright requested that their votes against the decision be recorded.)

RESOLVED that

- (1) Wilton Road Public Conveniences re-open (with a minimal refurbishment) from 1 July 2010 until 30 September 2010, 2 days per week (and ad hoc days as required) on a Tuesday and Saturday with no charge being implemented for this facility and a roving attendant to cover Wilton Road;
- (2) One-off funding of £7,000 is met from the Corporate Property Repairs and Renewals Fund;
- (3) Revenue costs for 2010/11 of £5,800 be met from implementation in 2010/11 of policies to secure additional income streams from coach parking and advertising revenue;
- (4) Usage and effectiveness of a roving attendant is monitored and reviewed by the Community and Social Affairs Committee after the end of the opening period (30 September 2010).

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 7.25 p.m.

Chairman