



RURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

10 MARCH 2010

PRESENT:-

Councillors N.R.G Angrave (Chairman)  
G.E. Botterill, M.Dean, M.C.R. Graham MBE  
A. Freer, R.F. Moore-Coltman, T. Moncrieff, N. Slater

As Observer  
Councillor Jackson and Wyatt

Corporate Director (CM)  
Head of Financial Services, Head of Social and Economic Development  
Head of Street Scene and Environment, Principal Policy Officer  
Democratic Services Clerk

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R41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Baguley, D.E. Orson and Rhodes.

R42. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 November 2009 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

R43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

R44. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

A petition had been received from the Leicestershire County Council which had previously been presented to the Town Centre Community Forum. The petition contains 152 signatures and stated the following :-

*'The project that we propose for the town centre community forum area is that a construction of a footpath along the slip road from Goodriche Street to Rutland Street joining the pathways already there.*

*We believe this idea would be beneficial to the people of Melton Town especially the elderly and infirm that use this dangerous road every day to do the shopping at Morrisons, with their trolleys, walkers, scooters etc.. also the younger generation with small children and buggies, when a car comes speeding along there is nowhere to get out of the way only up a kerb and onto the grass, not an easy task. The car drivers do not expect to meet pedestrians in the middle of the road. We have been out collecting people's views and 152 signatures of support of this idea.'*

The Petition was presented to Full Council on 25 February 2010. The Chairman also noted a document signed by 17 local residents requesting Members to reconsider making the Car Park on Algernon Road for Residents only.

**RESOLVED** that the Head of Street Scene and Environment investigate the matter and report back to the petition signatories.

R45. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 31 JANUARY 2010

The Head of Financial Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to update the Committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 31 January 2010.

**RESOLVED** that the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 31 January 2010 be noted.

(Councillor Moncrieff entered the meeting during consideration of the preceding item.)

R46. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO DECEMBER 2009

The Head of Financial Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to provide information on actual expenditure and income incurred on this Committee's services compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009.

A Member enquired if any work had been undertaken in relation to savings on recycling work. The Head of Street Scene and Environment stated that the Council had been approached by Charnwood Borough Council in relation to shared service provision.

A Member enquired if the contract moving onto the engineering price index had been taken into account. The Head of Street Scene and Environment stated that the engineering price index was currently higher than the retail price index and this would be planned into the long term budget.

A Member enquired how many vacant units the Council currently had. The Head of Street Scene and Environment stated that there were currently 3 vacant units.

**RESOLVED** that the financial position on each of this Committee's services to 31 December be noted.

(Councillor Jackson entered the meeting during consideration of the preceding item.)

R47. MELTON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK TASK GROUP UPDATE

The Principal Planning Policy Officer submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) on behalf of the Assistant Chief Executive (CW) to provide an update on the work undertaken by the Melton Local Development Framework Task Group and to seek advice from the Committee on any areas which require additional consideration at this time.

A Member enquired about the categorisation of Croxton Kerrial. The Principal Policy Officer stated that Croxton Kerrial would go through a separate process to see what land would be suitable for development and the Parish Plan would still have a role.

A Member stated that renewable energy needed to be a priority. The Principal Policy Officer stated that the feedback was useful and feasibility work would need to be undertaken.

A Member stated that the vision for Melton Town Centre was very important and needed to be considered carefully. The Principal Policy Officer stated that the Council did not have an area action plan but there was a lot of evidence available that Members could use to make a decision.

The Chairman wished to thank the Chairman of the Melton Local Development Framework Task Group for the work undertaken to date.

**RESOLVED** that the progress on the Melton Core Strategy be noted together with the proposed policy direction.

(Councillor Freer entered the meeting during consideration of the preceding item.)

(Councillor Jackson here left the meeting.)

R48. LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH- CONSULTATION

The Head of Social and Economic Development submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) for Members to note the Draft Strategy for Economic Growth (Leicester and Leicestershire) and to make comments in response to the formal consultation associated with the Strategy.

A Member requested that the need for a bypass be included in the consultation. Members noted concerns about the consultation. The Corporate Director (CM) stated that the process was very important as it helped to identify different funding areas available to the Council.

**RESOLVED** that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Social and Economic Development in consultation with the Chair of the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee to formulate a response to the strategy questionnaire.

#### R49. CAR PARKING: REVIEW

The Head of Street Scene and Environment submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to review various charging policies at long and short stay car parks following the previous report to:

- (a) review various charging policies at long and short stay car parks following the previous report to this Committee for :-
  - Tuesday Long Stay car parking charge
  - Options for weekly charging
  - Annual season tickets
  - Coaches & buses
- (b) to consider a review of residents parking and the introduction of a residents parking scheme together with an additional pay and display car park at Saxby Road;
- (c) to consider the impact of parking in town centre 'HRA' residents parking areas and make recommendations to the Community and Social Affairs Committee;
- (d) to provide an update on bus and coach parking and associated facilities in Melton Mowbray.

A Member enquired how many annual tickets the Council sold. The Head of Street Scene and Environment stated that the report did not include any data on the amount of annual tickets sold.

A Member stated that they were in they were in agreement with the principle of a discounted rate but did not wish to see a yearly increase in the fee. Councillor Graham moved to introduce a charge of £9.00 for 6 days. This motion found no seconder. The Corporate Director (CM) stated that the Chamber of Trade had asked the Council to take into account Town Centre employees who might struggle to pay for parking.

A Member stated that it would be very difficult to make a decision without the car park usage data being supplied. The Corporate Director (CM) stated that there had been an increase on the long stay use car parks and a marked lift in weekly ticket sales.

A Member stated that a 6 day car park charge would be unfair on people who only worked 5 days a week. A Member replied to this query, stating that the 6 day charge had arisen due to local workers requesting a 6 day charge. The Corporate Director (CM) stated that the issue of a 6 day charge had also been raised by the Town Centre Partnership and the Chamber of Trade.

A Member considered that more information was needed to make a decision. A Member enquired if there would be reserved parking for Councillors in the new build. The Corporate Director (CM) stated that any decisions around parking would be subject to a report on green travel planning. A Member stated that the format of parking permits needed to be changed as there were problems with people using old permits.

A Member suggested arranging a Task Group consisting of the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Community and Social Affairs Committee, the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee and Ward Councillors to consider the Business Case for implementing a residents permit parking scheme.

A Member suggested charging a nominal fee for the use of Wilton Road car park in the evening. The Head of Financial Services stated that if the study was not undertaken the Council would not have the information required when setting the budget for 2011/12 and it may be that the income was required in order to protect frontline services due to financial pressures. A Member considered that charging for evening car parking would enable the Council to bring the car parks up to a better standard.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the special Tuesday charge of £2.50 in Long Stay Car Parks be replaced with the current long stay charge of £1 for 2 hours; £2 for 4 hours and £3 for the day;
- (2) the decision to consider implementing a new weekly charge be deferred to consider data related to car park volumes which would enable the Committee to consider any possible economic impact;
- (3) the decision to consider implementing a season ticket charge be deferred to consider data related to car park volumes which would enable the Committee to consider any possible economic impact;
- (4) a task group consisting of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Rural, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Community and Social Affairs Committee and the appropriate Ward Councillors to :-
  - consider approval of a business plan to implement a residents permit parking scheme on Housing Revenue Account Car Parks and also the car parks at Saxby Road, Algernon Road and Regent Street to :-
  - consider the introduction of a pay and display car park at Saxby Road.

- (5) a further survey and consultation work on the implementation of evening charges in the short stay town centre car parks be approved;
- (6) the investigations being carried out by officers to consider the feasibility of relocating the bus and coach parking facilities in Melton be noted;
- (7) the progress on implementing an enforcement protocol in consultation with the land owner of the Bell Centre car park be noted.

(Councillor Wyatt left the meeting during consideration of the preceding item.)

R50. ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE TEAM: INDUSTRIAL MOWER PURCHASE

The Head of Street Scene and Environment submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to inform the Committee of the outcome of the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee of the 3 March 2010 in respect of the release of funds to purchase a mower for the Environmental Maintenance Team.

**RESOLVED** the report be noted.

R51. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

The Head of Street Scene and Environment submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to highlight the potential benefits to Melton Borough Council if it decided to adopt an Environmental Statement.

**RESOLVED** that the Environmental Statement be adopted.

R52. MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE WRAP (WASTE RECYCLING ACTION PLAN) RECYCLING COMMITMENT

The Head of Street Scene and Environment submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to seek the Committee's agreement to sign up to the Waste Resources Action Plan (WRAP) 'to a good waste and recycling commitment'.

A Member enquired if the recycling process was explained adequately. The Head of Street Scene and Environment stated that further explanation of the work involved may be useful. A Member suggested including an article in the Melton Times.

**RESOLVED** that the WRAP good waste and recycling commitment be adopted.

R53. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman reported to the Committee that a letter had been received from Hoby and Rotherby Parish Council requesting assistance with funding to maintain the Waterhouse Bridge.

**RESOLVED** that that the Corporate Director (CM) reply to a letter received from Hoby and Rotherby Parish Council requesting assistance with funding to maintain Waterhouse Bridge.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 8.00 p.m.

Chairman