

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 24th January, 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Phil Mould (Chair), Councillor Mark Shurmer (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Andrew Brazier, Simon Chalk, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Gay Hopkins, Brenda Quinney, Alan Mason and Luke Stephens

Also Present:

Councillors Michael Braley, David Bush and Derek Taylor

Officers:

R Dunne, J Godwin, L Hadley, S Morgan, J Staniland, L Tompkin and A Scarce

Overview and Scrutiny Support Officers:

J Bayley and M Craggs

Relevant extract from minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 24th January 2012.

Minute 149

PETITION - SHORT STAY PARKING - TOWN CENTRE

The Committee considered a petition regarding short-stay car parking in the town centre.

Prior to the lead petitioner and other members of the public being invited to speak to the petition, Officers confirmed that the Council's petition arrangements had been revised since this particular petition was first received by the Committee on 29th November 2011. The threshold for the consideration of any petition by Council had since increased to 1,000 signatures. However, it was explained that as this petition had been received prior to the new arrangements being established, it had retrospectively met the threshold required for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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Chair

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The lead petitioner and other members of the public invited to speak expressed concern that the absence of a short stay car parking facility on Unicorn Hill and Church Green West was compromising the function of local businesses. It was felt that this was having a negative affect on business, particularly as suppliers were currently unable to park outside a particular unit for a short period to drop off supplies. The petitioners did not feel that the facility for short stay car parking on Bates Hill was sufficient to meet the needs of local business and customers. Members of the public invited to speak commented that not only did they represent the views of their business colleagues on Unicorn Hill on this issue, but also their customers.

Officers explained that a town centre parking meeting had been convened on 2nd December 2011 to facilitate further discussion on the matter. It was the opinion of relevant agencies, including the Police and the County Council, that there were no other suitable locations in the town centre for short-stay car parking, including Unicorn Hill.

Members suggested that the petition be referred to an appropriate decision making body. It was also proposed that Officers facilitate a further meeting with the relevant stakeholders, including business representatives and town centre agencies, the outcome of which could inform the decision making body to most appropriately resolve the issue.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Executive Committee refer the issue of short-stay car parking in Redditch town centre for consideration to the Worcestershire County Council's Highways Forum; and**
- 2) the Executive Committee ask Officers to facilitate a meeting with relevant agencies and stakeholders, including the petitioners, to obtain further information on proposals for short-stay car parking in the town centre prior to its consideration at the Highways Forum.**

RESOLVED that

the petition be noted.