

Norfolk County Council

Area Committee for Great Yarmouth

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 23 February 2009

Present:-

Mr B J E Collins
Mr P T Hacon
Mr J A Holmes
Mr J R Shrimplin

Mr M Taylor (Chairman)
Mr T J Wainwright
Mr B R Walker

Also Present:-

Mrs B Taylor	Great Yarmouth Borough Councillor
Mrs V J Pettit	Great Yarmouth Borough Councillor
Mr G R Plant	Great Yarmouth Borough Councillor
Mr M Butcher	Great Yarmouth Borough Councillor
Mrs P Linden	Great Yarmouth Borough Councillor
Mr D Law	Norfolk Constabulary
Police Sergeant D Smith	North Norfolk Constabulary
Mr P Warner	Great Yarmouth Borough Council Officer
Mr C Kutesko	Planning and Transportation Department, Norfolk County Council
Mr D Wardale	Planning and Transportation Department, Norfolk County Council
Mr R Mills	Planning and Transportation Department, Norfolk County Council
Mrs D Lord	Prospective Road Train Operator
Mr S J Pullinger	EDP
Ms L Bagshaw	Great Yarmouth Mercury

1 Chairman's Announcements – The Development of the Great Yarmouth Area Transport Strategy

The Chairman said that he would like all County and Borough Councillors to be kept informed of progress on the development of the Great Yarmouth Area Transportation Strategy, as part of public consultation on the strategy planned for summer 2009. The Chairman said that he would be happy for this matter to be the subject of a special meeting at some stage, because he wanted Members of both authorities to be given an opportunity to comment on options for the Third River Crossing.

ACTION BY:

2 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 December 2008 were confirmed by the Area Committee and signed by the Chairman.

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M R H Carttiss and Mrs C M Walker.

4 Declarations of Interest/Urgent Business

There were no declarations of interest. There were also no items of urgent business.

5 Civil Parking Enforcement

The annexed report by Mr David Law of Norfolk Constabulary about Civil Parking Enforcement was received.

Mr Law said that three seasonal, full-time Traffic Wardens would be employed by Norfolk Constabulary and in post for duties on the seafront by Easter 2009, subject to advertisement, recruitment and vetting all being done in a very short space of time. This matter had not been discussed by the Car Parking Steering Group since September 2008. It was noted that there had in the past been delays regarding confirmation of funding that had caused delays to recruitment. In the circumstances, Mr Plant, Chairman of the Group, had given provisional approval for the funding of these posts from the income from seafront car parking. Mr Plant confirmed that a meeting of the Steering Group would be held shortly. Mr Law said that the new seasonal Traffic Wardens would be employed by the Police and, therefore, would be able to deal with parking issues along the entire length of the seafront.

Mr Law went on to say that Norfolk Constabulary was in discussions with the County Council and the Borough Council about implementing an interim solution until car parking enforcement was introduced after the introduction of the Local Government Review, originally proposed for April 2010 but now potentially delayed by the extension of the Boundary Committee deadline for recommendations to Government.

The Chairman said that he would like to see a review of signage in the town and old signs replaced wherever possible.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

6 Gapton Hall Roundabout

The annexed report by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development was received.

The Area Committee was pleased to note that the improvement programme of partial signalisation of the Gapton Hall roundabout was being funded by the Highways Agency for implementation in 2009/10. The partial signalisation would be on the A12 southbound approach and the roundabout itself, with all other arms either reverting back to, or being maintained, as a give way arrangement. These works were scheduled to start in September 2009 and be completed in December 2009. The Area Committee noted that the pedestrian and cycle crossing at the roundabout would remain.

Resolved-

That the report be noted.

7 Road Train: Seafront/Heritage/Town Centre Route

The annexed report by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development was received.

The Area Committee discussed an information report about the proposed road train route to link Great Yarmouth's heritage quarter and town centre with the seafront. The operator intended to start running the route from Easter 2009. A plan of the enclosed route was enclosed with the report and a "stop sign" for use on the route was shown to Members in the meeting.

Mr Peter Warner, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, said that the Borough Council and the County Council subsidised an open top tourist bus, in so far as part of the route provided a service from the Railway Station to the town centre. He said that competition from the road train operator along part of the route could mean that the heritage bus operator looked for additional public assistance, particularly with signage.

The proposed operator of the road train, Mrs Debbie Lord and Mr David Wardale, on behalf of the Director of Environment, Transport and Development, gave the following answers in response to Members' questions:

- The road train operator had been asked to make a contribution of one third towards the costs of the signage.
- The road train would be licensed by the Department for Transport.
- The proposed route had been approved by Norfolk Constabulary and the Highways Authority.

- The road train would be run as a commercial business.
- There had been a number of successful trials.
- The train was only as wide as an average size van.
- The train was sufficiently mobile to be able to get in and out of tight corners.
- The train complied with the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Members commented that King Street was already very busy and the road train would make it more so. Plans were being prepared for the partial pedestrianisation of King Street by 2010. It was hoped that there would be exceptions for the road train and cyclists.

Members of the Area Committee thanked the road train operator for attending the meeting and wished her well in this new business.

Resolved-

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.10am

Chairman



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