

Norfolk County Council

Area Committee for Great Yarmouth

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 11 May 2009

Present:-

Mr M R H Carttiss
Mr B J E Collins
Mr P T Hacon
Mr J A Holmes

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

Also Present:-

Mrs B Taylor
Mrs V J Pettit
Mrs J Cook
Mr J Longhurst
Mrs M Richards
Mr D Wardale
Mr D Glason

Great Yarmouth Borough Councillor
Great Yarmouth Borough Councillor
Locality Manager (Eastern), Adult Social Services
Planning and Transportation Department, NCC
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Planning and Transportation, Great Yarmouth Borough
Council
EDP

Mr A Carroll

1 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 February 2009 were confirmed by the Area Committee and signed by the Chairman.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J R Shrimplin and Mrs C M Walker.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

5 Adult Social Services

The annexed report by the Director of Adult Social Services was received.

ACTION BY:

The Committee discussed an update report on domiciliary care services as commissioned by Adult Social Services within the Eastern Locality.

The Area Committee noted that the Eastern Locality was split into four blocks and three block providers – Allied Healthcare, Care UK and One to One Homecare, provided the care in these areas.

In reply to questions, Jo Cook, Locality Manager (Eastern), Adult Social Services, said that Adult Social Services sought to advise people on how to navigate the social care system regardless of who was paying for services or support. Those who passed the test of eligibility of need were subject to a formal assessment to determine the level of financial contributions they would have to make to the service they received. This was based on a nationally agreed and continually updated capital sum of savings, including equity in any property.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

6 Bus Information Provision

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

The Committee received a report from Mrs Mary Richards on behalf of the Director of Environment, Transport and Development, that reviewed the provision of bus information at the Market Gates bus interchange and explained the possibilities for a new face to face counter service.

Members noted that in order to progress the project for a new bespoke bus information unit both the County Council and the Borough Council would need to make provision in their capital and revenue budgets for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 to cover the costs of works. The County Council had allocated a capital budget of £10,000 for 2009/2010 but had given no commitments to revenue funding. It was unlikely that specific funding would be available from central government because there were no relevant grants available.

It was pointed out that a bus information centre could have revenue implications for existing operations such as the TIC, especially if it involved the transfer of staff.

The Chairman said that he welcomed a new ticket and bus information machine that had been installed at Market Gates. He said that an approach had been made to a locally run business operating at Market Gates to see if they would be prepared to sell

bus tickets and provide bus information. The implications for existing sales outlets would need to be carefully examined before a decision on this matter could be reached.

It was pointed out that those working in retail sales outlets at Market Gates had health concerns about buses waiting at bus stops at Market Gates for lengthy periods of time with their engines still running. It was agreed that Mr David Wardale would take this matter up with the bus operators as a Health and Safety issue, with a view to bus drivers being asked to switch off the engines of their buses when they were expecting to wait for more than five minutes.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Area Committee seek a permanent bespoke bus information unit in the Market Gates shopping centre and ask that further work be done by both the County Council and the Borough Council to progress this matter.
- (b) That the Committee also seek new ways of distributing bus information in the town, as a short-term solution.

7 Update on Vauxhall Rail Station – Bridge and Surrounding Area

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

The Committee received a report that updated Members on progress to enhance the Railway Station area, bridge and approaches to the town.

Mr David Wardale, speaking for the Director of Environment, Transport and Development, said that a feasibility study was required to build on the initial assessment work that had been carried out by Mott MacDonald on pedestrian and cycle routes to Great Yarmouth. He said the feasibility study would cost in the region of £40,000 and it was hoped to meet part of this cost from the Great Yarmouth Area “on-street” car parking revenue budget. The Car Parking Working Group was due to meet to consider this matter in the next few weeks.

It was pointed out that £300,000 was available from the Great Yarmouth Borough Council who administered the “Fair Shares” funding stream. This sum had been ring-fenced for 2009/2010 on the bridge and its approach into the town.

It was pointed out that the Vauxhall rail bridge was owned by Sustrans, a sustainable transport charity that was known nationally for its work to promote walking and cycling.

It was also pointed out that the wooden decking on the bridge had been declared unsuitable for push bike use, on health and safety grounds. It was also known to suffer from icing in the winter, and

this caused problems for pedestrians.

Some Members said that the Vauxhall rail bridge was an “eye sore bridge” that needed to be painted in a bright colour, to make it more interesting, and to have lighting and CCTV added. This work would enhance the area and make people feel safer walking to the town from the Railway Station. It was pointed out that to bring the bridge up to a standard for use by vehicles such as taxis going to and from the Railway Station and pedestrians alike would cost in excess of £1m.

Other Members said that the Vauxhall railway bridge was in such a poor condition that it should be demolished, at a cost of £0.5m. This was not possible because the bridge was a listed monument.

Resolved-

That the Area Committee supports a feasibility study to evaluate improvements to the Vauxhall railway bridge and its surrounding area.

8 A149 Road Scheme

Mr Carttiss said that it was important to have on the Area Committee agenda issues that covered the rural areas of Great Yarmouth. He added that a road scheme on the A149 should be considered at the next meeting if by that time a suitable outcome had not been reached.

The meeting concluded at 10.50am

Chairman



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