

Report of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Culture to the meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 28 November 2013

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Subject:

Petition for the conversion of a section of Wibsey Fairground into a temporary parking area.

Summary statement:

This report highlights a petition of 972 signatures requesting that consideration be given to converting a section of the Wibsey Fairground site to a temporary parking area.

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Portfolio:
Regeneration, Economy and Sustainability

Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Environment and Waste Management



Suzan Hemingway, City Solicitor

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report highlights a petition of 972 signatures requesting that consideration be given to converting a section of the Wibsey Fairground site to a temporary parking area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At full Council on 22 October 2013, a petition of 972 signatures was received requesting the Council “to develop off street parking on part of the fairground in Wibsey Village to support local businesses and alleviate problems caused to residents”.
- 2.2 The petition has been collated by the chair of the Wibsey Urban Village Partnership.
- 2.3 A copy of the first page of the petition is included in Appendix 1. Addresses have been redacted for data protection purposes.
- 2.4 A presentation of the full copy of the petition will be circulated as supplementary papers on the day of the committee.
- 2.5 The lead petitioner has been invited to present their case to the committee.
- 2.6 Parking demand in Wibsey has been a concern for a considerable period of time, with demand consistently outstripping supply despite a number of implemented schemes and revisions over the past five years.
- 2.7 It is the opinion of the Area Traffic and Highways team that the provision of an off street car park as close as possible to Wibsey centre is necessary.
- 2.7 The issue of utilising the Fairground as an additional parking area was the subject of a single issue held on Thursday 4th March 2010 at Wibsey Primary School. At the time of the meeting officers noted an apparent 50/50 split in public opinion on the matter based on the attendance. (85 members of the public)
- 2.8 One of the key issues raised at the forum by the community at the time of consultation was the need to protect both the identity of the fairground and the appearance of the site as a green space – as such traditional construction methods for any parking area are not being considered at the present moment in time.
- 2.9 A suggested scheme and estimated costs have been drawn up for a scheme that is sympathetic to the nature of the site – as show in Appendix 1.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 While the Area Traffic and Highways Budget has traditionally been utilised in part to manage parking on-street the provision of off new off street parking facilities can be considered an effective traffic measure in congested parking areas.

- 3.2 The Area Committee may choose to allocate funds to this project as a part of the 2014/15 South Area Traffic Measures programme, which is due to be presented in March 2014.
- 3.3 The scheme outlined in Appendix 3 for an 80 space parking area gives an indicative cost of £67,000, however it is possible to build a car parking facility in a modular manner, to be expanded as necessary based on demand.
- 3.4 The figure of £67,000 is scalable to the size of the car parking area provided although approximately 14% of that cost (£10,000) would be fixed in terms of providing strengthened access, drainage and pay and display facilities.
- 3.3 The committee is asked to determine the size of any proposed parking area.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Bradford South Area Committee may choose to accept the petition and request further works be carried out to progress the matter of the proposed parking area to an appropriate size selected by the committee.
- 4.2 The Bradford South Area Committee may choose not to accept the petition.

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 5.1 Investigation works can be carried out utilising existing staff budgets.
- 5.2 The Area Committee may choose to fund this scheme from monies allocated to the 2014/15 Area Traffic Measures programme.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 6.1 There are no significant risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations.

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 7.1 There is a covenant on the fairground site that requires it be made available for the fair as and when required. This will need to be considered as part of any completed proposal.
- 7.2 All works undertaken will be carried out within the requirements of statutory legislation.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

- 8.1.1 There are no Equality & Diversity issues arising from this report.

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.2.1 Given the sympathetic nature of the proposed construction there are no significant sustainability implications to this report.

8.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

- 8.3.1 There is no greenhouse gas emission implication to this report.

8.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.4.1 The provision of off-street parking facilities provides a safer environment for pedestrians and road users.

8.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- 8.5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this matter

8.6 TRADE UNION

- 8.6.1 There are no trade union implications arising from this report

8.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 8.7.1 The creation of a larger parking area close to the village centre is likely to have benefits for both residents and businesses alike.

8.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 8.8.1 The development and implementation of schemes included in this report support priorities within the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan 2011-14.

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 Copy of full petition and petitioners presentations (to be circulated at the meeting)

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Bradford South Area Committee accepts the submitted petition.
- 10.2 That the Bradford South Area Committee requests the further development of proposals to introduce a parking area on Wibsey Fairground (to an agreed size as detailed in 3.2-3.4 above).
- 10.3 That the completed proposals are brought to the March 2014 Committee meeting for consideration for funding in the 2014/15 financial year.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – Statement from lead petitioner

11.2 Appendix 2 - First page of submitted petition with addresses redacted.

11.3 Appendix 3 - Scheme proposal for a 80 space pay and display car parking area sympathetic to the local environment.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 None

Appendix 1 – Statement from Lead Petitioner

COUNCIL – 22 OCTOBER 2013

REQUEST FOR OFF-STREET PARKING ON PART OF THE WIBSEY FAIRGROUND

Stephen Howard

I am here to put forward a petition to develop off-street parking on part of the area known as the Fairground in the Wibsey Village. My name is Stephen Howard and I have the business Stephen Howard Travel on the High Street of which I have been in operation for 25 years so feel fairly qualified to be able to comment on this. We have had a lot of parking restrictions imposed in the Wibsey Village in recent times, some of which have been readdressed slightly in the last 12 months, but we still have a huge problem for fellow businesses in the Village. The type of businesses that we have in the Village, we are well known for having a huge amount of hairdressers in the Village and as a lot of people will know, people need more than one and two hours for that sort of service. So at the moment the sort of restrictions that we have are not giving a good chance for businesses to survive in what are very difficult economic times. We do have up Fair Road an area that is used four weeks of the year for a travelling fair and what we would like to get the support is that we use that particular area and develop it as a small car park area. Would not stop the people using it as a fairground and in their four weeks of the year that would still be used as a fairground but we just feel that if we could have some parking in the area it would help the businesses. This particular model has been done next to the Cleckheaton Town Hall and this particular travelling fair, in fact after they have been to Wibsey, they then moved to Cleckheaton and just to the right of the Town Hall as you look at it, eight years ago that particular area of land was untarmacked, unmade. That was tarmacked, made into a pay and display car park and again is used for 48 weeks of the year as a car park and then four weeks as a fairground. So we have proved that this works and I know it has worked for people in the Cleckheaton area. We have talked unofficially with the people who come to the fair and they would have no objections whatsoever in us doing this because in fact it would improve the surface for them because often at the time of the year that they come the field is often very muddy and I do not think it does their particular trade any good when they have come. Interestingly enough this petition we have actually worded it slightly different this time in that we have asked for people in support of rather than in the past we have had objections by local residents but interestingly enough in a very small space of time we have got in the region of 1,500 signatures so there is good support from the Village. I realise that financing is a problem. I think we are all aware of that but this initiative would in the long term be self-financing. We appreciate it would have to be a pay and display and hopefully charges would be kept at a reasonable level and one that we would get our money back in time.

