

Report of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Culture to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 25th September 2014.

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Subject:

PROPOSED CAR PARK, WIBSEY FAIRGROUND

Summary statement:

This report reviews a previously approved proposal to create a car park on the fairground site in Wibsey and includes consideration of a recent petition requesting that the proposal be abandoned.

Ward: 27 Wibsey

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Portfolio:

Housing, Planning and Transport.
Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Environment and waste Management



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report reviews a previously approved proposal to create a car park on the fairground site in Wibsey and includes consideration of a recent petition requesting that the proposal be abandoned.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A petition (containing 972 signatures), requesting that the fairground site in Wibsey be used to create an additional parking area, was submitted to the Council in autumn 2013. The petition was presented to the Bradford South Area Committee at the meeting on 28 November 2013, by which time the number of signatures had risen to over 1500.
- 2.2 At the aforementioned committee meeting it was resolved: -
- i. *That the submitted petition be accepted.*
 - ii. *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 to Document "A1").*
 - iii. *That the completed proposals be brought to the March 2014 Committee meeting for consideration for funding in the 2014/15 financial year.*
- 2.3 In January 2014 consultation letters were sent out to around 300 residents/businesses in Wibsey in an attempt to gauge local opinion regarding proposals for a car park on a section of the fairground site. There were 25 responses received, of which 13 were in favour, 10 were against and 2 were undecided.
- 2.4 A report titled 'Devolved Budget – Safer Roads Schemes' was presented to the Bradford South Area Committee on 27 March 2014. One of the resolutions allocated funding for the promotion of a car park on the Wibsey fairground site.
- 2.5 A further petition has now been submitted, containing 56 signatures. The petitioners have requested '*That Bradford Council, through its South Area Committee decision making process should reject the proposal to use the Wibsey village fairground, off Fair Road, Wibsey, as a car park*'.
- 2.6 The full wording of the latest petition is attached as Appendix 1.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The proposal includes the provision of a removable height-limiting barrier to ensure that general access would only be available for cars. The system would be removable for instances when fairground access is required.



- 3.2 There are a number of streets within convenient walking distance of the proposed car park site where on-street parking is regularly available. As such it is anticipated that if charges were introduced at the proposed facility, it would be unlikely that it would be particularly well used. In addition to the conflict between visitor, residential and business parking, this would also undermine the viability of a charging and patrolling system.
- 3.3 A suggested car park layout is shown on plan R/PTH/TN/102767/GA-1A, attached as Appendix 2. The exact layout would be subject to the detailed design process.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 At the meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee on 27 March 2014 a sum of £20,000 from the 2014/15 budget was allocated to promote car parking facilities on the fairground site in Wibsey. The estimated total cost of providing such a facility is £50,000, there would therefore need to be a phased approach to progress this scheme. The 2014/15 allocation could be utilised to establish a secure entry point and suitable hardened surface for the entrance area. A further commitment of £30,000 in the 2015/16 financial year would facilitate construction of 28 parking spaces.
- 4.2 The construction of a new car parking facility will incur a perpetual annual management and administrative cost of £1200. If it is resolved to pursue this proposal, this ongoing cost will have to be identified within an existing Council budget.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

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

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 A proposal to create a parking area at this location would require the promotion of an Off-Street Parking Places Order to ensure that parking takes place in designated areas and within set time limits.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Due regard has been given to Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 when considering this matter.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.



7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There is no impact on the Councils own and wider Districts carbon footprint and emissions from other greenhouse gases arising from this report.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The provision of a designated parking area could reduce the number of vehicles circulating in search of on-street parking spaces and therefore be beneficial to road safety.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no trade union implications arising from this report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Ward members have expressed support for the car park proposal.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

None.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 That the Bradford South Area Committee continues to support the proposal to construct a car park on part of the Wibsey fairground site and provisionally allocates a sum of £30,000 from the 2015/16 Traffic Measures to complete the project.
- 9.2 That the Bradford South Area Committee abandons the proposal to construct a car park on part of the Wibsey fairground site and considers re-allocation of any residual funding at a future meeting
- 9.2 Members may propose an alternative course of action from the options listed in which case they will receive appropriate advice from officers.



10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Bradford South Area Committee notes the petition as detailed in paragraph 2.5 and Appendix 1 of this report.
- 10.2 That the Bradford South Area Committee makes a resolution to either proceed with the car park proposal for part of the Wibsey fairground site or to abandon the proposal.
- 10.3 That, if it is resolved to proceed with the car park proposal, approval be given to prepare and advertise an appropriate Off-Street Parking Places Order.
- 10.4 That, if it is resolved to proceed with the car park proposal, the Bradford South Area Committee makes a resolution on the issue of car parking charges.
- 10.5 That the petitioners and those previously consulted on the proposal be informed accordingly.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Submitted petition.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 – Suggested car park layout – Plan no.R/PTH/TN/102767/GA-1A

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 None.



APPENDIX 1

Petition wording: -

We the petitioners strongly disagree that extra car parking is necessary in this part of Wibsey village, or that local businesses are suffering loss of trade because of the lack of car parking. The proposed car park is in the wrong location and would not significantly benefit local business. Neither will extra traffic bring any benefits to the residents of Wibsey, but it would seriously reduce the quality of life. Our observations show that there is ample car parking available on from Fair Road, between St Enoch's top roundabout and the fairground at all times and on all days, even at peak times. Furthermore, this proposal would increase congestion – not reduce it, it would increase air pollution – which is already too high in Bradford, therefore worsening health conditions, and increase restrictions for existing businesses and residents around the fairground. We believe it would attract car crime, increase litter and encourage unwelcome behaviour such as drug dealing. The village would lose a much-loved green space which is beneficial to our health and mental wellbeing, is used by many local people, and is the only local safe area for children to play. Once a green space is lost it is lost for ever. The charm and character of the village would be lost. Furthermore, we have been informed by estate agents that house values for those owners around the field will fall. There is no suitable place for a car park entrance or an exit without major alterations to existing infrastructure. The proposal for using artificial turf would create mud from churned ground where it is not used. There is no coherent financial plan for this idea and at a time of relentless Council Tax rises a proposed figure of £78000 is unacceptable and the people of Wibsey would not understand such irresponsible expenditure. It would be considered outrageous. We doubt the plan would self-finance and the cost would fall to the Council Tax payer. At a time of other priorities when people fear the loss of essential services and cannot even get the potholes in the roads repaired, and struggle to make ends meet, this proposal should be rejected. The solution to Wibsey's problems is efficient public transport links, late bus services and dedicated bus routes."



