

**THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2013. MINUTE NO.S 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 88 TO 94 AND 96 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN**

## **SOUTHPORT AREA COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, LORD STREET, SOUTHPORT ON WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Booth (in the Chair)  
Councillors Ashton, Ball, Brodie - Browne, Crabtree,  
Dawson, Dodd, M. Fearn, Lord Fearn, Hands, Hartill,  
Jones, Keith, Preece, Rimmer, Shaw, Sumner,  
Sir Ron Watson, Weavers, Welsh.  
Local Advisory Group Member Mary Pointon

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sergeant Nigel Stewart, Merseyside Police and 14  
Members of the public.

#### **81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McGuire and Local Advisory Group Member Dianne Eastaway.

#### **82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of pecuniary interests were made.

The following declaration of personal interest was received:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Action</u>
Councillor Crabtree	89 - Lord Street Service Road – Proposed Revocation of Hackney Carriage Rank	Personal – his son is a Sefton hackney carriage proprietor	Stayed in the room, took no part in the consideration of the item and did not vote
Councillor Hands	93 - Mornington Road Area – Proposed 20 mph zone	Personal – his daughter lives in the area of the proposed 20 mph zone	Stayed in the room, took no part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon

#### **83. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2012.

Further to Minute No. 65(2) relating to the establishment of an informal Working Group, Members indicated that no elected Members or Local

Advisory Group Members or business/trader representatives had yet been appointed to serve on the Working Group; and suggested that the Working Group should comprise of 6 elected Members/Local Advisory Group Members and 6 business/trader representatives.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2012 be confirmed as a correct record;
- (2) approval be given for the membership of the informal Working Group to comprise of 6 elected Members/Local Advisory Group Members and 6 business/trader representatives;
- (3) nominations to serve on the informal Working Group be submitted to Councillor Booth, Chair of the Area Committee; and
- (4) minutes of future meetings of the Southport Area Partnership be submitted to the Area Committee.

#### **84. PRESENTATION - SOUTHPORT AND ORMSKIRK HOSPITAL NHS TRUST**

The Committee received a presentation from Dr. Jonathan Parry, Chief Executive, Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust (the Trust), updating on the Foundation Trust application and on the possible impact of decisions that may be made by Sefton Council and the acute sector.

Dr. Parry indicated that the Trust had an annual revenue budget of £177 million and employed 2,769 staff; served a population of 225,000; and detailed the patient activities undertaken.

Dr. Parry also detailed the accolades of the Trust that included being ranked 18<sup>th</sup> of the top 20 hospitals in the 2012 Dr. Foster hospital guide and was the only Trust in the country to achieve the Gold Standard Framework for End of Life Care; detailed the strategic risks affecting the Trust that included quality versus performance versus finance issues, commissioning intentions and financial resources for healthcare/social services; and detailed the benefits to patients of the Trust that included the pace and focus of strategic delivery, fostering an entrepreneurial attitude and utilising the skills knowledge of Members and Governors.

Dr. Parry concluded by detailing the process and timetable of the Foundation Trust application and that it was hoped that Department of Health approval would be obtained in July 2013.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Dr. Parry be thanked for his informative presentation; and

- (2) the Area Committee places on record its support of the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust application to become a Foundation Trust.

## **85. PRESENTATION - THE ATKINSON**

The Committee received a short presentation from John Taylor, Service Manager Arts and Culture, updating on the development of The Atkinson.

RESOLVED:

Mr. Taylor indicated that the Atkinson was 140 years old and that the building required a comprehensive redevelopment; that during its redevelopment, as many of the original features as possible, such as fireplaces and mosaics, were retained; detailed the floor plan layout for each of the floors; and explained how the state of the art air conditioning/humidity control system would enable to Council to borrow and display collections from outside of the Borough which was not previously the case.

Mr. Taylor then explained the theatre/cinemas/studio arrangements within the building; and that the building now had much improved wheelchair accessible arrangements than previously.

Prior to the Area Committee meeting, various Members undertook a tour of the Atkinson and Mr. Taylor thanked the Members for their keen interest and support for the development.

Members expressed their delight at the building and commented that it was a major asset/anchor to the town and hopefully would be a major driver of economic development in Southport; that an integrated plan was required to include hoteliers and transport/parking services providers to ensure that a complete package of services and facilities could be offered to visitors to the Atkinson; and concluded by requesting that reference be made within the Atkinson to Lawson Booth, a former Mayor of Southport and major benefactor of the original Atkinson building.

Mr. Taylor indicated that he would investigate the possibility of honouring Lawson Booth within the Atkinson.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Taylor be thanked for his informative presentation.

## **86. MR. STUART TAYLOR**

The Chair referred to the recent sad death of Mr. Stuart Taylor and indicated that Mr. Taylor was Chair of the Southport Party for 10 years and was a regular attendee at Area Committee meetings; and asked his Southport Party colleague (who was present at the meeting) to pass on

the condolences of the Area Committee to Mr. Taylor's family and friends. Mr. Carter, his Southport Party colleague agreed to do this.

## **87. POLICE ISSUES**

Sergeant Nigel Stewart updated the Area Committee on policing issues and in particular referred to:

- Inspector Jim Atherton moving from the Formby, Ainsdale and Birkdale neighbourhood to the Netherton and Litherland neighbourhood
- Inspector Atherton's replacement would be Inspector Diane Prosser who had moved from the Crosby neighbourhood
- PC Adam Meadows had been recently recruited to the Formby, Ainsdale and Birkdale Neighbourhood team
- The issue of burglary being a key priority for the Police in the new year. In this connection, following good police work and working in liaison with British Transport Police two males had been arrested for burglary offences and one for "going equipped".
- Operation Dragonfly – property registration via immobilise.com
- Operation Beachsafe for the late spring and summer period was now being planned
- Operation Speedwatch, a joint venture between the Police and volunteers, was being promoted in the Southport area

Members of the Committee/Local Advisory Group/public raised the following issues:

- Numerous comments were made regarding Operation Speedwatch including: vehicles were not adhering to the 20mph limit in the Virginia Street area because the speed bumps were too low; were there any restrictions on people volunteering; and residents were concerned that 30 mph speed limits were not enforced by the Police. Sergeant Stewart explained the high visibility policing tactics as part of the Operation and that warning letters were initially issued to offenders as part of an educate and then enforce policy; that he would pass on the complaint about speeding traffic in the Virginia Street area to Inspector Fairbrother; and that all volunteers needed to be vetted and if a favourable outcome was achieved they could take part in operations
- Was there any information available on the number of rough sleepers in Southport and if so, had there been any recent increase. Sergeant Stewart indicated that he had no knowledge of rough sleepers in the Formby, Ainsdale and Birkdale neighbourhood but he was unsure about figures for the town-centre.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Head of Investment Programmes and Infrastructure be requested to provide information to all Area Committee Members on the number of

rough sleepers in Southport and what cross agency services the Council/partners can provide to alleviate the problem

- How many quad bikes would be used in Operation Beachsafe. Sergeant Stewart indicated that 2 would be used.
- A question was asked regarding correspondence received from the Police in connection with a stolen cycle from Chapel Street. The bike had not been recovered and the letter indicated that 190 hours of Police time had been taken viewing CCTV footage. Was this figure correct. Sergeant Stewart indicated that he would obtain the questioners details, investigate the matter and respond to him
- A PCSO was due to leave the Norwood team next month. Would she be replaced. Sergeant Stewart indicated that he would contact the Councillor and provide an answer
- Had there been any traffic problems due to the lane closure on the Coastal Road. Sergeant Stewart advised that other than a heavier flow of traffic through Ainsdale and Birkdale, there had been no real problems.

RESOLVED:

- (1) Sergeant Stewart be thanked for his presentation; and
- (2) the Area Committee places on record its appreciation for the dedicated service provided to Southport by Inspector Atherton over many years and that he be wished every success in his new role as Neighbourhood Inspector for Netherton and Litherland.

## **88. PUBLIC FORUM**

During the Public Forum the following questions/comments/petitions were submitted:-

- (a) Ms. D. Pennington, who was not present at the meeting, complained about the condition of the grey granite slabs in Chapel Street and in particular, the replacement of the damaged slabs with tarmac. Ms Pennington concluded by asking how long would it take to replace the slabs.

The Network and Infrastructure Manager had responded in writing to Ms. Pennington.

- (b) Mr. A. Campbell, on behalf of Central Cabs, who was not present at the meeting, objected to the proposal to revoke the Hackney Carriage rank on the Lord Street Service Road. Mr. Campbell indicated that rather than revoking the rank, a four space 24 hours a day rank should be introduced as the current rank facilities in Southport were insufficient for the needs of the hackney carriage trade.

The Service Manager – Traffic and Transportation had responded in writing to Mr. Campbell.

- (c) Mr. J. Hannah, on behalf of the North Sefton Hackney Carriage Association, who was present at the meeting, asked whether the four spaces on the Lord Street Service Road rank could be amended by the incorporation of a loading bay at the rear of the rank by changing the last space on the rank to a loading bay between the hours of 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.; and that a four space rank be introduced between the hours of 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.

The Service Manager – Traffic and Transportation had responded in writing to Mr. Hannah.

Mr. Hannah asked, as a supplementary question, why did the Council want to make the proposed changes.

Mr. Marrin, Service Manager – Traffic and Transportation advised that changes were needed due to the 2008 relocation of the main rank to Lord Street; and that numerous surveys had shown that the rank was rarely used by hackney carriage drivers.

**RESOLVED:**

That the comments made by Mr. Campbell and Mr. Hannah as detailed in (b) and (c) above be deferred and considered in connection with item 7 on the agenda relating to the Lord Street Service Road – Proposed Revocation of Hackney Carriage Rank.

The Area Committee then deferred consideration of the other submissions made as part of the Public Forum to enable consideration to be given to the report relating to the Lord Street Service Road Hackney Carriage Rank.

**89. LORD STREET SERVICE ROAD - PROPOSED REVOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANK**

Further to Minute No. 50 of 26 September 2012 the Committee considered:-

- (l) the report of the Director of Built Environment on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order, the effect of which would revoke the Hackney Carriage rank on the northwest side of Lord Street service road; and introduce a loading bay (8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.) on the northwest side of Lord Street service road.

The report indicated that an objection to the proposal had been received from the North Sefton Hackney Carriage Association (NSHCA); that rank usage surveys had been undertaken which showed a low usage of the facility; and that due to the potential benefits in reducing congestion and improving road safety on

Eastbank Street, it was proposed to revoke the existing Hackney Carriage Rank and replace it with a Loading bay. The Loading bay would operate from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

It was proposed to introduce individual Orders for the roads incorporating all the existing restrictions; and

- (II) the following two questions submitted as part of the Public Forum:-
- (i) Mr. A. Campbell, on behalf of Central Cabs, objected to the proposal to revoke the Hackney Carriage rank on the Lord Street Service Road. Mr. Campbell indicated that rather than revoking the rank, a four space 24 hours a day rank should be introduced as the current rank facilities in Southport were insufficient for the needs of the hackney carriage trade.
  - (ii) Mr. J. Hannah, on behalf of the North Sefton Hackney Carriage Association, asked whether the four spaces on the Lord Street Service Road rank could be amended by the incorporation of a loading bay at the rear of the rank by changing the last space on the rank to a loading bay between the hours of 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.; and that a four space rank be introduced between the hours of 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the recommendation to introduce Traffic Regulation Orders, the effect of which will revoke the Hackney Carriage rank on the northwest side of Lord Street service road from a point 9 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square to a point 27 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square; and introduce a loading bay (8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.) on the northwest side of Lord Street service road from a point 9 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square to a point 27 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square and as detailed in the report be not approved;
- (2) the following Traffic Regulation Orders be approved, the effect of which would:
  - (i) revoke the existing Hackney Carriage rank on the northwest side of Lord Street service road from a point 9 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square to a point 27 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square;
  - (ii) introduce a new Hackney Carriage rank on the northwest side of Lord Street service road from a point 18 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square to a point 27 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square, for two cabs, to operate all day;

- (iii) introduce a new Hackney Carriage rank on the northwest side of Lord Street service road from a point 9 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square to a point 18 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square, for two cabs, to operate between 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 a.m.; and
- (iv) introduce a loading bay (8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.) on the northwest side of Lord Street service road from a point 9 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square to a point 18 metres southwest of the southwest kerbline of Eastbank Street Square;
- (3) the Service Manager – Traffic and Transportation be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders referred to in (2) above; and
- (4) the Service Manager – Traffic and Transportation be requested to review the operation of the hackney carriage rank/loading bay for a six month period and report the findings to the Area Committee.

#### **90. PUBLIC FORUM**

The Area Committee recommenced consideration of the submissions made as part of the Public Forum.

- (d) Mr. R. Woods, who was present at the meeting, referred to the completed work on the Virginia Street footbridge and asked when would the improved lighting be installed and the blocked drains cleared.

The Service Manager – Traffic and Transportation had responded in writing to Mr. Woods.

- (e) Mr. R. Mitchell, who was present at the meeting, referred to comments made in December by Councillor Peter Dowd, Leader of the Council, relating to charges for sports users and also to comments made by a Council official in January regarding a proposed increase in such charges. Mr. Mitchell asked had there been a change of strategy by Council officers from what the Leader of the Council had stated.

The Head of Landscape and Management had responded in writing to Mr. Mitchell.

Members reiterated the comments outlined in the officer response that a decision on this matter would be made by the Budget Meeting of the Council to be held on 28 February 2013.



- (f) Mr. P. Hampson, on behalf of the Southport Tourism Business Network, who was not present at the meeting, raised strong objection to the two options currently out for consultation, namely the closure of all paid for and free public toilet provision across Sefton or to an increase in the price paid. Mr. Hampson indicated that the implementation of either proposal would damage the visitor economy and employment prospects for Southport and the wider Borough; and asked 13 detailed questions about the proposals.

Mr. Hampson concluded that he hoped the Area Committee would be able to help his organisation to better understand and evaluate what he perceived to be the serious negative impacts of the closure of all public toilet provision in Sefton.

RESOLVED:

That as a seaside resort looking to attract tourism and businesses to the town, the Council should ensure that Southport retains its provision of public toilets.

## 91. BUDGET MONITORING

Further to Minute No. 64 of 21 November 2012, the Committee considered the report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning indicating that the balance of the budget available for allocation during 2012/13, including sums set aside for the provision of litterbins and street signs, was as follows:-

Ward	Available Funds £
Ainsdale	11,469.05
Birkdale	27,261.61
Cambridge	19,498.41
Dukes	14,544.03
Kew	16,247.37
Meols	16,493.11
Norwood	8,581.69
Town-wide	14,520.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,615.52</b>

Details of the allocations made by each Ward against the general provision in the previous year were set out in the report.

Members discussed various allocations that could be made from their respective Ward budgets.

Mr. C. White, Area Coordinator, advised the Committee that items 6, 7 and 8 contained within the Norwood Ward allocation on page 34 of the agenda should read as detailed below and not as stated on the agenda:-

6. 10 week course providing LDD social opportunities (£500)

7. Re-erect name plate for Pitts House Lane (£35.88)
8. Lawnmower for Friends of Meols Cop Station (£432.50)

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the remaining balance of £128,615.52 of the budget available for further allocation for the rest of the year be noted;
- (2) allocations from the 2011/12 Ward budgets agreed to date and the ongoing issues from 2010/11 as indicated in paragraph 2.1 of the report, be noted; and
- (3) the Area Coordinator be requested to progress the siting of "The Monument" nameplate as soon as possible.

## **92. MANCHESTER ROAD / HOGHTON STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment seeking approval for the progression of traffic signal improvements at the junction of Manchester Road and Hoghton Street, Southport.

The report indicated that the Cabinet Member - Transportation had approved a report detailing a number of Local Safety Schemes to be funded from the 2012/13 Local Transport Plan; that one of the schemes related to a 'route action' Local Safety Scheme along Manchester Road, which incorporated the junction with Hoghton Street, and sought to introduce measures to reduce the number of recorded injury collisions on Manchester Road; and detailed the collision details at the location over a three year period that showed that there had been a total of ten recorded injury collisions along Manchester Road, between Lord Street and Hartwood Road (nine resulted in slight injury, and one resulted in serious injury) and that out of the ten collisions, 2 occurred at the junction with Hawkshead Street, one occurred at the junction with Arnside Road and 7 occurred at the junction with Hoghton Street.

The report concluded that It was considered that many of the collisions could have been prevented by amending the staging of the traffic signals, i.e. introducing separate stages so that traffic on each of the Manchester Road legs operated completely separately. This would physically remove the conflict between opposing lines of traffic, where one was turning right.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the approval of the Cabinet Member - Transportation for an increase in the budget to fund the scheme, the changes to the Traffic Signals at the junction of Manchester Road and Hoghton Street, Southport, which will introduce separate stages on Manchester Road and pedestrian stages on each of the four legs of the junction be approved.

### **93. MORNINGTON ROAD AREA - PROPOSED 20 MPH ZONE**

Further to Minute No. 72 of 21 November 2012, the Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order, the effect of which would introduce a 20 mph speed limit in the Mornington Road area of Southport.

At its meeting on the 21 November, the Area Committee had deferred consideration of the matter to enable further consideration of the roads to be subject of the 20 and 30 mph speed limits and to seek the views of Arriva on the proposals. Accordingly, a meeting between officers and Norwood and Dukes Ward Councillors was convened on 12 December 2012 and Ward Members were advised that the proposed 20 mph area was one of five Local Safety Scheme funded projects that would be introduced as part of the longer-term rolling programme to impose a 'blanket' 20 mph speed limit on all residential areas within Sefton and that the 20 mph speed limit Policy was endorsed by the Area Committee at its meeting on 28 September 2011 and approved by Cabinet Member - Transportation on 10 October 2011. Arriva had been contacted about the proposals and had advised that they did not consider the speed restrictions would have a detrimental impact on their bus services and therefore, did not raise any objections to the proposal.

As a result of the results from the original public consultation and following discussions with Ward Members on 12 December, it was proposed that the new 20 mph speed limits would apply to the following roads in Southport:-

- Anchor Street
- Wesley Street
- London Street – (now to be whole length of London Street)
- Tulketh Street
- Hill Street
- Bridge Street
- Derby Road
- Wright Street
- Scarisbrick Street
- Kensington Road
- Sussex Road – (Between St. Luke's Road and Derby Road)
- Hall Street
- Zetland Street
- East Street
- Windsor Road
- Hawkshead Street – ( Between St. Luke's Road and Manchester Road)
- Houghton Street- (addition to roads reported to SAC in November 21<sup>st</sup> 2012)
- Vulcan Street
- Hawesside Street
- Mornington Road

- Castle Street
- Union Street
- Church Street
- Arnside Road
- Hope Square
- Ashley Road
- Marlborough Road
- Hope Street
- Mount Street

It was proposed to introduce individual Orders for the roads incorporating all the existing restrictions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revocation of all relevant speed limit Traffic Regulation Orders as described in paragraph 3.2 of the report be approved;
- (2) a Traffic Regulation Order introducing a 20 mph speed limit within the Mornington Road area, Southport on the roads identified in paragraph 3.1, of the report and to now include Hoghton Street and the upper section of London Street, be approved; and
- (3) the Service Manager - Traffic and Transportation be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders.

#### **94. MONITORING OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment setting out details of the current Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) in the Southport area which had been approved for implementation.

Kew Ward Councillors referred to the TRO at Cumberland Road/Scarbrick New Road whereby the report indicated that works had been completed; and commented that this was not the case.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report on the monitoring of Traffic Regulation Orders be noted; and
- (2) the Service Manager – Traffic and Transportation be requested to notify the Kew Ward Councillors when works at Cumberland Road/Scarbrick New Road would be completed.

**95. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Chair referred to requests for the submission of 11 reports on various topics by the Area Committee at its meetings held on 26 September and 21 November 2012; and advised that all Members of the Committee were today e-mailed officer responses on 10 of the requests.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the outstanding report of the Head of Tourism on the costs associated with improving the promotion of Southport in the run up to and during the Christmas period be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee; and
- (2) the Director of Built Environment be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the structural defects at Cambridge Arcade and the replacement of the Arcade's canopies.

**96. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the agreed programme of meetings for this Area Committee, the next meeting be held on **Wednesday, 27 March 2013, at the Town Hall, Southport, commencing at 6.30 pm.**