

Minutes of a meeting of Amble Town Council held on Thursday 15th May 2014 at 5.00pm in the Council Meeting Room, Harbour Commissioners Building, The Quayside, Harbour Road, Amble.

PRESENT: Cllrs Mr Weir (Chair), Mrs Dargue, Mrs Lewis, Miss Morrison, Mr Robinson, Mr Watson and the Clerk: Miss Brown.

12 Members of the Public were present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Hinson- Illness. The apologies were agreed.

15. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

A resident of Lawson Street suggested a one way system from the bottom of Queen Street, along Leazes Street through to the junction with Newbrough Street; including one way down Broomhill Street, Harbour Road and Ladbroke Street.

Another suggestion was double yellow lines outside Coquet Street and down passed the fish shops, with parking allowed on the opposite side of the road.

Residential parking on Leazes Street was identified and parking permits were suggested, although Cllr Watson pointed out that if everyone had parking permits then nobody else would be able to park.

A resident of Ladbroke Street commented that long stay visitors should be parking in the long stay car parks and that proper enforcement is required on weekends and bank holidays.

A resident felt that Cross Street/North Street should be included in the one way system of Queen Street.

Members of the public were frustrated by lack of feedback and implementation of changes to alleviate the problems.

17. NCC Highways

The development of the Harbour Village will create more parking problems.

Members were disappointed with the solution of options 1 & 2, stating immediate solutions were required now. The creation of additional parking at the Harbour would not address the traffic flow problems but increase them.

The land at the former cinema site and Breeze's Garage are an immediate solution and it was felt that NCC should compulsory purchase this land.

The NCC owned land on the Braid next to the Coquet Street car park and the Marina is also an ideal solution, this land of which part is owned by Northumberland Estates is currently used as overflow parking for the Puffin Festival.

It was agreed that an immediate solution should be found as soon as possible or future projects would not succeed.

Better signage for long stay car parking was required in the town.

The suggested park and ride which would run on trial for a 10 week period should travel from Coquet Enterprise Park along Percy Drive, Links Avenue, Marine Road to Church Street, to the Braid car park, then return in reverse back to the Enterprise Park. While there would be no charge, if the charity's minibus was used, a donation would be accepted for charity. The Members thanked NCC for the opportunity of the park and ride trial but urged investment in car parking in the town from the County Council administration which had created free parking across Northumberland but leased off car parking land in Amble which could possibly be charged for in the future. Good signage at the Industrial Estate and the Braid would be needed to encourage usage.

Cllr Weir and Watson left the meeting, having other commitments to attend.
Cllr Dargue stepped into the Chair.

Traffic Regulations/Flow:

Members were disappointed that the plan does not appear to have changed to take into account issues previously discussed with Highways in a meeting held on 17th December, notes of which were sent to Sarah Hudson on 19th December via email in response to the parking consultation.

It was agreed that the Council would urge NCC to committing finance on additional car parking facilities as this was vital for the future viability of the Harbour Village and the Town.
The Council would also urge NCC to hold a public meeting, a date of which was promised but never delivered.

Better enforcement of parking regulations is required in Amble, the regulations on Queen Street on the plan does not reflect the removal of the loading bays to alleviate the effects the current restrictions have on businesses in the area.

18. BUS SHELTER, ACKLINGTON ROAD HIGH SCHOOL

It was resolved that an amount of up to £1500 be delegated for the materials (steel, brackets, paint etc.) for the project. The galvanising of the materials would be discussed when a price was available as this was based upon size and weight.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm