

PARKING ISSUES IN KERSHAW'S HILL AND STOREHOUSE LANE, HITCHIN – INFORMATION NOTE

THE CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLANNING & ENTERPRISE MANAGER

1. PURPOSE OF INFORMATION NOTE

- 1.1 To respond to the request by Hitchin Committee (See Minute 12 of 8 June 2010) for a report detailing the procedures for the implementation of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in Kershaws Hill and Storehouse Lane, an estimate of the total costs and confirmation that Section 106 monies previously agreed with Leach Homes could be used in this instance and that all arrangements could be in place before the deadline for the allocated Section 106 monies.

2. ISSUES AND CAR PARKING STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Kershaws Hill and Storehouse Lane area including Hollow Lane suffers from all day non-residential parking mostly during the weekdays. A modest amount also occurs on Saturdays. This in turn causes difficulties for local residents wishing to gain access to and from their own properties.
- 2.2 This area has been on the Council's list for several years in terms of seeking the most appropriate form of on street parking control. This area is similar to other areas that surround the District's town centres and railway stations. This issue was recognised back in 2002 with the granting of planning permission for the new dwellings at Kershaws Hill and the S106 agreement with Leach Homes for £12,000 towards the implementation of CPZ scheme in Kershaws Hill and Storehouse Lane, which had to be spent within 4 years of receipt.
- 2.3 Some initial consultation work was undertaken back in early 2009 to gain local residents view on a CPZ scheme and type of possible restrictions in the area. At the same time work was underway on a Parking Strategy review which was reported to Cabinet in September 2009 with an action plan agreed in October 2009. One of the policies in the Strategy is to examine the Council's approach to on and off street parking controls, including resident permit parking schemes. When preparing the Parking Strategy, the Council considered that it would be more appropriate to look at a more comprehensive set of parking controls over a wide geographic area around each of its stations and town centres in order to overcome issues such as non-residential parking (i.e. commuter parking and local all day worker parking) and the likelihood of displacement into neighbouring residential streets as parking controls are implemented. This approach is to ensure that the Council is offering the best solution in dealing with on street parking issues and value for money when implementing the most appropriate scheme for the affected areas.
- 2.4 It was agreed by Cabinet in October that with the current level of resources and funding arrangements available that one town-wide review is undertaken per annum. The anticipated programme for this work is set out in the agreed Action Plan, which recommends that the town-wide review in Hitchin takes place in 2011/12.

- 2.5 In light of the changes in circumstances (both with regard to the Council's financial position and evolving policy position) it was considered appropriate to review the implementation of all CPZ schemes at that point in time.
- 2.6 It was agreed that the Kershaws Hill and Storehouse Lane scheme should be included as part of a wider scheme including Hollow Lane and be taken forward as part of the town-wide review in 2011/2012. The initial consultation work undertaken in early 2009 will feed into the review.

3. FUNDING

- 3.1 At this point in time it is difficult to provide an exact cost for such a scheme. The S106 monies of £12,000 was received from Leach Homes on 23/12/2008, which has been ring fenced and will be carried forward as part of the Council's Business Planning Process and will be added to the proposed £65k revenue budget that has been set aside for town-wide parking reviews. It is a requirement of the S106 agreement that this money must be spent by 23/12/2012. This will accord with the Hitchin town-wide review programme to commence in April 2011. A scoping report setting out the review process will be brought to Hitchin Committee in Spring 2011.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 That the Hitchin Committee note the content of this Information Note.

5. CONTACT OFFICERS

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