

Minutes of the meeting of the STRATEGIC PLACEMAKING SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 8 AUGUST 2019 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor P Geary (Chair)
Councillors K Bradburn, Gilbert, Petchey and Williams.
S Proffitt (Director Environment and Property), S Bailey (Strategic Lead [Parking and Taxis]), K Hulatt (Principal Solicitor [Litigation]) and S Muir (Committee Manager).

Also Present: Councillors R Bradburn, Gowans (Cabinet member for Planning and Transport), D Hopkins and Jenkins and circa 50 members of the public.

SPSSC04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of Interest were received

SPSSC05 CALL-IN OF DELEGATED DECISION - 16 JULY 2019: CALDECOTTE RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ONLY SCHEME

The Sub-Committee noted the decision made on the 17 July 2019 “that the implementation of the Residents Parking Scheme and associated restrictions in the Caldecotte area be approved and proceeds”, by Councillor Gowans the Cabinet member for Planning and Transport, had been called-in by 20 members of the public who were also employees of Rightmove, for the following reasons:

“We request the decision is called-in in connection with a formal objection to the, now approved, resident parking restrictions on the neighbouring Caldecotte housing estate, submitted on our behalf by our employer, Rightmove.

Whilst we believe that parking on these roads should primarily be for the residents who live on these roads, the restrictions will also only apply during business hours when residents are less likely to be at home as they too will be at work; it is not clear to us what the restrictions would achieve. The majority of the houses on the roads under review all have adequate off-road parking or are accessed via private access roads off the main street.

It is also a concern to us that, due to the lack of parking, the roads coming onto the Business Park are becoming dangerous with several accidents and incidents already reported. This provides concerns for both residents and Business Park users as to the access for

emergency vehicles, i.e. fire engines and ambulances. Also, the appearance of the park and surrounding area has suffered with the verges now non-existent in some places which gave a very bad impression to all concerned.

Whilst Rightmove promotes the use of public transport it is becoming increasingly difficult for many employees to use, as Rightmove, alongside many other businesses, employ a more flexible workforce with non-standard work hours to enable families to balance personal and work life, meaning that individuals have no choice but to drive to their place of work. We would urge you to not underestimate the impact on the employment opportunities and welfare of Business Park employees in the event these parking restrictions are put in place. It would effectively mean some would not be able to remain in their current employment as they would literally not be able to park their car. They are unable to use public transport due to it not being a viable option.”

It was reported that a mediation meeting to consider any possible points of agreement had not been held on this occasion.

The Sub-Committee received a representation from the Head of People & Development - Rightmove, on behalf of 20 residents who were also their employees, who summarised the reasons for calling in the item and added that:

- Rightmove had 93 car parking spaces at their premises and 285 employees who currently worked on full and part-time basis based at their offices at Caldecotte Business Park and had leased an additional 64 car parking spaces from the Rugby Club for their employees use;
- Rightmove had also organised a “free to employees” shuttle taxi/bus service to the additional spaces at the Rugby Club;
- Rightmove actively encouraged their employees to use public transport, car share, cycle, walk or run to work, agile working and provided secure cycle racks, changing facilities and showers. The company also arranged meetings at other venues in Milton Keynes for its home based sales force visiting Milton Keynes, and arranged taxis to the company’s office from hotels, in order that car parking spaces were not required;
- Other companies at the Business Park also competed for any available car parking spaces; and
- Asked the Committee to consider a compromise approach to find solutions, such as an option for companies to be permitted to

purchase parking at other sites such as Caldecotte C, or parking permits in areas where verge parking had less of an impact.

The Sub Committee received a response from Councillor Gowans (the responsible Cabinet Member), who indicated that:

- The Resident Permit Scheme Policy was adopted in November 2015 and required evidence that a resident permit parking only scheme was desired by at least 70% of affected residents before the Council would consider implementing a scheme; about 90% of residents were in favour of this scheme following consultations by both Walton Community Council and Milton Keynes Council and that he had all the information he needed to be able to make the decision;
- Decisions to adopt a Resident Permit Scheme in an area were usually made by an officer decision, but in this case, due to the number of people affected, it was made by a Delegated Decision on 16 July 2019;
- The dates for implementation of a Resident Permit Scheme would be within 2 months of the order being approved, with a review after 6 months;
- 35 residents had attended the Delegated Decisions meeting and several representations had been made in support of the decision. No businesses from the Business Park had been identified as attending the meeting or had made representations against the decision being taken;
- The area for the Resident Permit Scheme had been identified by the residents;
- The roads on the adjacent residential areas were frequently blocked by parked cars that obstructed access by emergency response vehicles and buses;
- The Council had allocated resources of £300k to resolve parking issues in the Caldecotte area, and in addition to asking for solutions in the current financial year, he would request a three year plan to investigate long term solutions for residents and businesses in the area; and
- The Council had recently approved the purchase of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras that would be more efficient and effective in enforcing parking restrictions.

The Sub-Committee received submissions from Councillors D Hopkins and Jenkins and 9 members of the public, during consideration of the item.

The Sub-Committee challenged and questioned the representative of the callers in and Councillor Gowans and about the Resident Parking Permit Scheme Policy process, the consultations that had been carried out, other areas in the vicinity that could be used for employee parking and if liaison with the Business Park Landlord on other options had been carried out.

Councillor P Geary indicated that whilst the Sub-Committee wished to support both residents and businesses in Milton Keynes, the correct procedures had been followed to introduce the Resident Parking Permit Scheme and considerable evidence of the issues in the area had been provided.

Councillor P Geary also indicated that the Council had a duty to provide parking solutions across the borough that included taking into account future adequate parking provision for businesses through the Council's Planning process, discussing solutions to current parking issues with the Business Park Landlord, ensuring adequate public transport access to business areas and discussions with Milton Keynes Development Partnership to ascertain if Caldecotte Site C could be used for Parking.

Councillor P Geary proposed and Councillor Gilbert seconded that:

- (a) The matter be not referred back to the Cabinet member and the Delegated Decision to implement The Residents Parking Scheme and associated restrictions in the Caldecotte area that was approved on 16 July 2019, take immediate effect.
- (b) Other Actions:
 - (i) Recommendation to Cabinet:

The Committee recommended that the Cabinet actively work with residents, businesses and the Business Park landlord to find solutions to this issue, taking into consideration public transport.

- (ii) Recommendation to the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee:

That the Committee further recommended that Officer Colleagues report to Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee in December 2019 detailing progress on the recommendation to the Cabinet.

- (ii) Recommendation to the Head of Planning:

That Planning must consider the lessons learnt from the Caldecotte parking issues and consider carefully the placement of businesses and residential areas being placed together and

the parking provision for business areas in future a development, as Milton Keynes expands and report back to Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee in December 2019 detailing progress.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED -

That the Sub-Committee agreed that:

The matter not be referred back to the Cabinet member and the Delegated Decision to implement The Residents Parking Scheme and associated restrictions in the Caldecotte area that was approved on 16 July 2019, be immediately implemented.

Other Actions:

(a) Recommendation to Cabinet:

The Sub-Committee recommended that the Cabinet actively work with residents, businesses and the Business Park Landlord to find solutions to this issue, taking into consideration public transport.

(b) Recommendation to Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee:

That the Sub-Committee further recommended that Officer Colleagues report to the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee in December 2019 detailing progress on the recommendation to the Cabinet.

(c) Recommendation to the Head of Planning:

That Planning must consider the lessons learnt from the Caldecotte parking issues and consider carefully the placement of businesses and residential areas together and the parking provision for business areas in any future development as Milton Keynes expands, and report back to Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee in December 2019 detailing progress.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.40PM