



Meeting (No) **PLACES COMMITTEE (2)**
Time & Date **6pm 26 June 2018**
Place **Town Hall**
Document **Minutes**

Present: Cllrs Roberts (Chair), Chapman and Griffiths

In attendance: Miss A Duncan (Governance & Operations Manager), Transport Working Group Chair, Cllr Lloyd, Cllr Warner, Active Cheshire's Strategic Lead for Active Design and two residents.

PART 1: Items considered in the presence of the press and public

3 Questions and comments from residents

A resident raised concerns about the safety of the A540/Hinderton Road junction and stated that a right turn filter arrow for vehicles turning into Hinderton Road and a 30MPH speed limit would improve safety. The resident highlighted the need for a full road safety survey leading to a new road safety plan, mentioned that he had witnessed cars jumping the red lights at the Hinderton Road junction and requested a public meeting to move matters forward.

4 Apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Edwards (personal) and Yarker (personal).

5 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6 Transport

- a The Committee considered a report on the Cheshire & Warrington Draft Transport Plan.

RESOLVED that the following response be submitted to the consultation:

Neston Town Council

- Considers that this draft strategy, like many such strategies, is strong on the analysis of the problem, but becomes much weaker when addressing specific actions and the provision of resources to deliver change.
- Is disappointed that of the proposed priorities, only the one concerning the local railway line has direct benefit for Neston and at least one other, the A550/A5117 improvement, has the potential to exacerbate for our town the very 'disparity in the level of connectivity' that the report aims to reduce.
- Requests as a matter of urgency that the Transport Plan clearly identifies Transport for Wales (TfW) as the franchise authority/franchise administrator for all rail services to and from Neston, and that the Transport Plan also recognises the importance of the Welsh Government's proposals for improving the interchange between routes at Shotton.
- Urges the authors to raise the priority rating of the Borderlands line within its plan and address the inadequacy of the A540 as part of its road proposals by identifying the A540 as part of the Major Roads Network.

Chairman's initials and date:

DR. 25.9.18

- Regrets the omission of specific commitments to improve bus services, particularly for communities with no rail services, or rail services that are inadequate. Specific proposals are needed to respond to the Plan's statement that buses: 'will be crucial for the success of local economies'.
- Suggests that some comparative costing should be undertaken so that it is clearer what advantages there are from creating a separate public transport system for Cheshire and Warrington rather than subscribing to the extensive infrastructure, frequent services, inclusive ticketing and low fares that have already been established in Greater Manchester and Merseyside.
- Welcomes the inclusion of the section on Local Transport and considers that this could be improved by the creation of Local Transport Plans – such as Neston's Public Transport Standard.
- Believes that the Draft Transport Strategy for Cheshire and Warrington, even if implemented in full, will not improve the outlook for Neston unless significant changes are made.

RESOLVED to call on local CWaC councillors and Mr Madders MP to make representations on behalf of Neston Town Council to address the risks to Neston that would result if no changes were made in the priorities in the Cheshire and Warrington Strategic Transport Plan, stressing that this would be assisted by CWaC following Cheshire East Council's example and reviewing its own transport strategy.

The committee agreed to issue a press release highlighting the Council's agreed position on this issue.

- b The Committee considered a report on the decision by the Welsh Government in respect of the Wales & Borders Rail Franchise.

In response to the report the Committee **RESOLVED** that Neston Town Council

- notes the decision by the Welsh Government in respect of the Wales and Borders Rail Franchise;
- expresses its concern that the focus is clearly on Wales with little clarity about the position of English towns on the new network;
- urges local councillors and our MP to seek an assurance that Neston will be included as a stop on the additional services that are promised on the Borderlands line;
- reconfirms its belief that, in the absence of a half hourly service stopping at all stations from Wrexham to Liverpool, the best interests of Neston would be served by moving the connection for Liverpool services south from Bidston to Shotton, with the journey north from Shotton through to Liverpool operated by Merseytravel;
- requests the Wrexham and Bidston Rail Users Association (WBRUA) to convey the views of Neston Town Council in its discussions about the future of the franchise.

- c The Committee considered an oral report on ongoing transport issues.

A540

The Committee reiterated its concern about the future of the A540 and noted that the draft Transport Strategy for Cheshire and Warrington did not appear to give the A540 any status and potentially isolated Neston further by strengthening the road from Ellesmere Port to North Wales (A5117/A550).

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Bus services

The Committee was pleased to note that the Town Council's call to retain a bus connection to Hooton had received a positive response from Cheshire West and Chester Council but agreed that more needed to be done to increase the usefulness and affordability of the transport system for Neston residents. The Committee noted with particular concern that the Cheshire West Travel Card cannot be used on any Neston buses.

The Committee agreed that three immediate measures would ensure better bus use and sustain services:

1. Create a Neston Public Transport guide to show how people can access key destinations for health, work and leisure.
2. Encourage Avon buses to allow the use of the Cheshire West Travel Card on its 22 Service so that people get a discount.
3. Require Arriva (487) and Aintree (272) to allow the use of the card on their Neston buses, giving at least a 10% discount, to boost bus use as part of the subsidy arrangement.

The Committee also noted that CWaC had recently adopted a Transport Strategy for Northwich.

The Committee requested that the Transport Working Group take these matters forward at a meeting to be scheduled with CWaC officers and CWaC councillors.

Rail

The Committee noted that the Transport Working Group had been considering the possibility of organising a get together for community councils, focusing in particular on the smaller councils, to discuss transport issues. The Committee members welcomed this suggestion.

The Chair of the Transport Working Group and Cllr Lloyd left the meeting.

7 Active Cheshire

- a The Committee received a presentation from Active Cheshire's Strategic Lead on Active Design.
- b The Committee agreed that active design would be considered further at the next meeting once costs had been confirmed.

The Active Cheshire representative left the meeting.

8 Substitute member for Policy Committee

The Committee decided not to appoint a substitute member to attend at Policy Committee meetings should the Places Chair be unavailable.

9 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED to approve minutes of the meeting held on 22.05.17. The Chair signed the minutes.

10 Governance & Operations Manager's report

The Committee received the Governance and Operations Manager's report and noted in particular that the cost of graffiti removal from the railway station subway would be £190, rather than the £160 anticipated, and that this additional expenditure had, in liaison with the Committee Chair, been approved.

Cllr Warner left the meeting.

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11 Committee budgets

- a The Committee received the end of year 2017/18 against budgets and noted that a full report would be made available at the next Full Council meeting.
- b The Committee considered the budget for 2018/19. No action was taken.

12 Task & finish/working groups

- a **RESOLVED** to establish working groups and appoint members:
 - Marsh Working Group - Cllr Barker (lead) and Cllr Roberts
 - Neston Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group – Cllr Barker and Cllr Roberts (Cllr Kynaston appointed previously at Full Council).
 - Neston Looking Better Group – Cllr Griffiths (lead), Cllr Kynaston and Cllr Warner.
 - Transport Working Group – Cllr Chapman (lead) and Cllr Lloyd.
- b The Committee chose not to establish any other groups and nominate members.

13 Appointment of Representatives and Delegates to External Organisations (one member to each)

RESOLVED to appoint representatives as follows:

- Borderlands Steering Group – to request a representative at Full Council
- Deeside Business Forum – to request a representative at Full Council
- Neston Station Adopters – Cllr Lloyd
- Wrexham-Bidston Rail Users' Association – Cllr Edwards.

14 Committee meeting dates

RESOLVED to confirm indicative Places Committee meeting dates, 25/09/18, 13/11/18, 04/12/18, 26/02/19 and 26/03/19 as published on the Town Council's schedule of meetings.

15 Marsh ditching works – Quayside

RESOLVED to undertake ditching works at Quayside during 2018/19. The committee requested that advice be sought from the Marsh Working Group and quotations for the work be presented for consideration at a future meeting.

16 Benches

The Committee considered a report on the condition of the Town Council's benches and requested the opinion of the Neston Looking Better Group.

17 Youth Justice Service

The Committee considered report PL2/17 and agreed that there was a possibility for young people to be involved in the ongoing work of clearing/weeding of neglected areas and litter picking. The Committee requested that the Council Manager take this forward.

18 Neston Neighbourhood Plan (NNP)

The Committee considered the monitoring action points suggested by the NNPMG.

The Committee noted that a meeting with the NNPMG was to be arranged by the Council Manager.

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The Committee decided that, as the Neighbourhood Plan documents were accessible online, production of paper copies would not be necessary.

The Committee requested that the Council Manager discuss and resolve the question of admin support to the NNPMG.

The Committee noted that it was the intention of Council that councillors would take responsibility for moving forward various aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan in line with strategic objectives.

19 Mersey Forest

The Committee received an update on the current status of tree planting in Drake Road and noted that:

- Mersey Forest had confirmed that trees would not be planted until autumn;
- the condition of trees from previous planting would be progressed with CWaC.

20 Neston Looking Better Group

The Committee received the notes of the Neston Looking Better Group meeting held on 09.05.18.

21 Other items: none.

22 Next scheduled meeting: This was noted as 25.09.18 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed



Date

25.9.18