

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

6TH APRIL 2016 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors M. A. Sherrey (Leader), C. B. Taylor (Deputy Leader),
G. N. Denaro, R. L. Dent and P. J. Whittaker

Observers: Councillors B. T. Cooper, M. Glass and M. T. Buxton

Officers: Ms S. Hanley, Ms J. Pickering, Mrs S. Sellers, Ms A. Scarce and
Ms R. Cole

95/15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R. J. Laight.

96/15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

97/15 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 24th February 2016
and 2nd March 2016 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on
24th February 2016 and 2nd March 2016 be approved as a correct
record in each case.

98/15 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on
29th February 2016 were submitted. There was some disappointment
expressed that the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was
not present at Cabinet in this regard.

It was noted that in relation to Minute 108/15, the time period for
processing the potential planning application in Foxlydiat was 16 weeks
rather than 6 weeks. This had been amended at the last meeting of the
Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and
Scrutiny Board held on 29th February 2016 be noted.

99/15

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 21ST MARCH 2016

The recommendations from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 21st March 2016 in relation to the Evening and Weekend Car Parking Task Group were considered as part of the discussion on the Task Group Report.

100/15

REPORT OF THE EVENING AND WEEKEND CAR PARKING TASK GROUP

The Cabinet received the report of the Evening and Weekend Car Parking Task Group. Councillor M. T. Buxton was present at the meeting as a representative of the Task Group, together with Democratic Services officer Ms. A. Scarce, who had provided officer support to the Task Group.

Councillor P. J. Whittaker as the Portfolio Holder responsible for car parking responded to the recommendations put forward by the Task Group. It was recognised that a great deal of work had been undertaken by the Task Group which had originally been set up to review evening car parking and in particular the trial of free evening car parking after 7.00pm. Subsequently the remit of the Group had been extended to cover Evening and Weekend car parking.

In relation to recommendation 1 the Cabinet agreed that car parking was vital to the economic development of the Town and accepted the principles behind the recommendation. It was felt however that the existing Economic Development Priorities should be reviewed in order to assess the impact of car parking charges, rather than produce a new Economic Development Strategy which may need to alter in 6 months time. It was fully accepted that the needs and views of businesses in the Town needed to be taken into account and the new Centre Manager would be fully involved in this review process and in working with local businesses. It was stressed that it was important that the process was undertaken prior to the consideration of the next round of changes to fees and charges. The existing Economic Priorities needed to focus more strongly on car parking. Officers and Members from Economic Development, Car Parking and Planning would need to work very closely together on the further regeneration of the Town Centre.

In relation to recommendation 2, this was largely accepted, with a minor change to the wording to reflect the changes within recommendation 1. In addition the new Centres Manager should be added to the list of officers/Members to be involved in the consultation on car parking.

Recommendation 3 was agreed in its entirety.

Recommendation 4 was agreed subject to a minor change in wording to reflect the changes within recommendation 1.

Councillor Whittaker expressed thanks to the Car Parking Task Group for the detailed work they had undertaken and for the recommendations arising from this. There would be a formal report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Board from the Cabinet.

Councillor Buxton reported that there was some outstanding end of year information in respect of the level of use of car parks which had been unavailable to the Task Group due to the car parking computer system. This would mean a meaningful comparison could be made with the previous year's figures. The Executive Director Finance and Resources confirmed the figures would be available shortly and would be able to form part of the review process.

It was

RESOLVED that the following Task Group recommendations as amended be approved:

- (1) that the Council reviews its Economic Development Priorities to assess the impact of car parking charges as soon as possible, whilst considering the following key features:
 - (a) ensuring that car parking arrangements are managed in accordance with the interests of the local economy;
 - (b) working with partners in business and retail to review the Economic Priorities that includes parking options and tariffs that encourage customers to visit Bromsgrove; and
 - (c) ensuring that car parking arrangements support the Council's Economic Priorities.

- (2) that whilst reviewing the Economic Priorities it is recommended that an external expert be engaged by the Council, with a clear remit of what the Council wishes to achieve. It is suggested that they would need to consult with the following Council officers/Members:
 - (a) Economic Development Team
 - (b) Environmental Services Team
 - (c) Relevant Portfolio Holders
 - (d) Members of the Evening and weekend car Parking Task Group
 - (e) Local businesses and retailers
 - (f) Town Centres Manager

- (3) that prior to any further trials (of any nature) being agreed and carried out, any necessary data should be collected in order to have appropriate comparative data and information available to ensure that any such trial can be measured successfully.

- (4) that until the review of the Economic Priorities, the current parking charges and concessions should be maintained (including the continuation of free evening car parking).

101/15

ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE APPLICATION - THE CROSS INN, FINSTALL

The Cabinet considered a report on an application from CAMRA that the Cross Inn, Finstall be listed as an Asset of Community Value.

It was noted that there had been a previous application in November 2013 that the premises be listed as an Asset of Community Value, which had not been supported at that time by the Cabinet and subsequently had not been supported by the Head of Planning and Regeneration. The application had been rejected and the property had therefore not been listed.

The Cabinet considered the current application and noted that there were a significant number of community events held at the premises and uses by local organisations, including for fundraising events, use as a meeting place for local sports teams and use of the car park for the community. In addition the Cross Inn was the only pub in Finstall.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the listing of the Cross Inn, Finstall as an Asset of Community Value be supported.

102/15

ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE APPLICATION - BLACKWELL METHODIST CHURCH HALL, GREENHILL, BLACKWELL

The Cabinet considered a report on an application from Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council that the Methodist Church Hall, Blackwell, Bromsgrove be listed as an Asset of Community Value.

The Executive Director Finance and Resources reported that since the publication of the agenda, the Methodist Property Office had stated they had no objection to the listing in respect of the building. Members however raised some queries in respect of the surrounding land indicated on the sketch plan attached to the application which was not particularly clear or to scale.

For the avoidance of doubt it was felt it would be prudent to seek further clarification from the Methodist Property Office and the Parish Council on the status of the land surrounding the building and to request that a more accurate plan be submitted. This would mean the deferral of the application.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that consideration of the application in respect of the Methodist Church Hall, Blackwell be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet ; and
- (b) that in the meantime further information be sought from the applicants and the Methodist Property Office including a plan indicating the area of land to be included within the application.

The meeting closed at 6.38 p.m.

Chairman