

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the Highways Committee held at the County Hall, Durham on **Friday 24 July 2009 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor D Morgan in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Arthur, A Bainbridge, Burn, Hugill, Robinson, Sheill, Stradling, T Taylor, Todd, Woods, Wright and R Young.

Other Members:

Councillors Blakey, Cox and O'Donnell.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hancock, Maslin, Tomlinson and Zair.

A1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 12 June and 10 July 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In relation to Minute A7 of the meeting held on 12 June 2009 concerning parking restrictions at Paradise Lane, Easington, the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised that a meeting did take place with representatives of the Health Centre and local residents where the issues were discussed. As a result of the meeting there will be new proposals for ambulance bays and prohibition of waiting restrictions, and if there were any objections following the consultation, a report would be presented for the consideration of the Committee.

A2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A3 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order at Seascape Primary School, Ellison Road, Peterlee

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services regarding objections to the proposed traffic regulation Order at Seascape Primary School, Ellison Road, Peterlee (for copy see file of Minutes).

Mr J Arthur, Clerk to Peterlee Town Council and Councillor J Measor of the Town Council were in attendance. Mr Arthur advised that the best option for the park and stride scheme would be from the Peterlee Sports and Social Club car park however if agreement could not be reached the Town Council had a proposal for the Authority. He pointed out that the Town Council owns land in the vicinity and showed its location. Although this was not as close to the school as the sports club they would be happy to enter into discussion about using some of their land for the park and stride site where a hard standing could be created. He explained that Eden Hill area was a deprived area and people are reluctant to park their vehicles away from their properties.

The Committee was advised of the issues relating to seeking an agreement with the Sports and Social Club, and that officers would continue to seek to resolve this.

Resolved:-

1. The representations be set aside and the introduction of the traffic regulation order be agreed as follows:-

Prohibition of Waiting- Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m., and
Prohibition of Stopping on School Entrance markings Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

2. The offer from Peterlee Town Council be noted. Officers would however have further discussions with Peterlee Sports and Social Club to seek to reach agreement on the park and stride site being in the grounds of the Club.

Due to recent unforeseen events the Chairman agreed that the next item was urgent and could be considered.

A4 Flooding

Councillor Blakey referred to the heavy rain in the previous week which had caused many roads to be flooded, and enquired about the position with gully cleaning. Other Members had experienced similar flooding in their areas. Issues were raised about the responsibility of cleaning becks, where responsibility lay for the gullies and field drains being blocked, distribution of sand bags, and procedures in place to notify residential areas for vehicles to be moved on the day gullies are to be cleaned.

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised that over the period referred to there had been unusual levels of rainfall which had caused localised flooding. The Service had received just over 3,000 calls for assistance and had responded to the majority. There was water on the highways but the vast majority

was not caused by gullies being blocked, as most was due to the rainfall coming down from hills and into fields.

Gullies are cleaned once per year, however if they are aware of a significant problem in an area this can be undertaken more often. Once the water is in the gully it is the responsibility of Northumbrian Water. The Authority has responsibility for flooding on the highway but if it is on land it is the responsibility of the land owner. He pointed out that new responsibilities would be coming to the Authority where they would be the co-ordinating authority for flooding which would provide the Authority with increased responsibilities and a financial burden.

Due to the enormous number of requests for sand bags over the period referred, there had been difficulty in responding to all of the requests. As the Fire and Rescue Service also respond to flooding the services are to jointly purchase a new type of sand bag which is gel filled and once hit by water swells. As they are flat and light they are easier to store and are more easily distributed.

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services would make enquires to determine the information that is given to residents about gully cleaning, and to see what measures could be undertaken to notify areas that the gullies are to be cleaned on a particular day to ensure vehicles are moved out of the way.