

Minutes

Economic Scrutiny Panel

13th June, 2007, Newton Hall Community Centre

Present: Councillor Hopgood (in the Chair)
and Councillors Colledge, Kelly, Mitchell, Simmons, Stoddart and Wilkes.

Also Present: Councillors Kellett, Lodge, Marsden, Robinson, Taylor and
Thompson.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Carr, Guy, Lightley and Turnbull.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th March, 2007 were agreed as a true record.

3. Scrutiny of Disabled Parking in the District

The Chair recapped on the research that had taken place so far and informed the panel that Mr Colin Wilkes of Durham City Forum would be in attendance for the next meeting.

Councillor Robinson informed the Panel of the procedure she had followed to obtain a blue badge and advised the Panel that a blue badge packs can be obtained from Hopper House.

Councillor Thompson informed the Panel that it would be advantageous to co-opt a person with a disability to give the Panel information and an additional point of view. Councillor Thompson knew a lady (Ms Prested) who he thought would be willing to attend the next meeting.

The Panel suggested that the attraction of disabled bays to able bodied people was the size and location of the bays.

Members of the Panel stated that many disabled visitors to Durham confined their shopping to High Street because it is flat and because of access to Prince Bishop's car park and Shopmobility.

Councillor Lodge informed the Panel that the park and ride gave disabled people good access to the City. The Panel asked for a report on the park and ride relating to the monitoring of the use of disabled spaces at each of the locations and the possible extension of the numbers of spaces. The Panel also asked that a representative from the park and ride be invited to attend a meeting of the Panel.

Members were concerned at the numbers of available disabled parking on the street, noting especially Palace Green.

The Chair asked the Panel what disabled parking facilities were available in their Wards. Councillor Taylor informed Members that there were two disabled bays in Brandon that were well used. Councillor Simmons said that there were *disabled bays at Newton Hall* (4 at the Co-op; 3 at the Post Office and 1 at the Library)

The Panel agreed that the Ms Prested and County Council Traffic representative should be asked to attend the next meeting.

4. Any Other Business

Members at the meeting expressed wishes that the Panel meetings should be taken out into the district. The Chair agreed that the panel meeting should go out to other available venues but it should be remembered that not all Members drive.

Arrangements should be made to hold the next Panel Meeting at Belmont Community Centre.

Meeting terminated at 6.15 p.m.

Information from County Council on Disabled Parking

Mr. Harland from the County Council's traffic section was invited to attend the meeting but unfortunately is unable to attend. However, Mr Harland has said if Members submit there questions he will endeavour to answer them.

Mr Harland has given some information regarding Disabled bays at the Park and Ride sites. He has confirmed that generally there is 1 or 2 available throughout the day. The bays are monitored by Parking Attendants and are used only by people displaying blue badge.

Mr Harland went on to advise that they are awaiting the erection of signs at each site and when erected will allow parking staff to issue any drivers not displaying a blue badge and parked in a disabled bay with a fixed penalty notice.