

# Minutes of the Parking Strategy Steering Group

Venue: Westwoods Centre

Date: 13 December 2022, 6pm

## **Present:**

Chris Hancock  
Brian Hulcup  
Tim Poole  
Andrea Richell  
Julie Russell  
Andrew Wellman  
Tony Dale (Ward Cllr, observer)  
Pauline Rigby (Clerk)

## **Absent/apologies:**

Byron Hadley  
Patrick McHugh  
Adrian Morley-Blackwell

1. **Welcome / Apologies for absence.** As above

2. **Appointment of Chairman**

Chris Hancock offered to chair the group. Agreed.

3. **Appointment of additional members.**

Group membership had been appointed by Council so this item was not required.

4. **Identification of principal issues and areas for improvement in and around the Market Place**

CH: The starting point is policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. The development of parking on another site in town is dependent on making improvements to the public realm in the Market Place. The proposal is to evaluate each area of town in turn, starting with the Market Place, then look at solving issues in each of those areas, resulting in a comprehensive strategy.

BH asked about the expression of interest for Levelling Up funding. TD replied that Cotswold District Council has been awarded £174,000 of funding in year one and there are currently 60 bids in. Those bids would need to be whittled down.

Principle issues around the Market Place:

- Five entrances and exits cause chaos.
- Location of the bus shelter and public conveniences, and of the bus stops
- Layout of spaces is not optimal, built for 1960s cars, jazz parking is an issue.
- Lack of safe pedestrian space, and safe passage to cross from one part to another. No pedestrian footway to Cotswold Stores in particular.
- Delivery lorries struggle to make the turns, often driving over the pavement, esp. over the buildout; they have no space to stop outside businesses at the top.
- No good place for buses. Buses need a pull-in so traffic can continue to flow.

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- War memorial is an obstacle to traffic flow and doesn't benefit pedestrians.
- Cyclists: there are an increasing no of cyclists, but there is nowhere to leave bicycles where they are in view. Businesses lose trade if cyclists don't stop.

TD suggested making Northleach the cycling centre of the Cotswolds as a strategic leg of the plan. He would promote the idea with CDC, who could write it into the destination management plan, and use as part of the tourism message.

## **5. Identification of possible options for amelioration and public realm improvements to permit additional West End parking provision as envisaged by Northleach Neighbourhood Plan policies**

CH: Two potential car park sites had been evaluated as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The site by the church had issues because it is in the environs of a Grade I listed building, and had the high cost of building an access road.

TD: Do people want to separate pedestrians and traffic or have a shared space?

CH: Restricted parking, e.g. timed, would help with customer parking. When he discussed the Neighbourhood Plan with the County Council, they said they would support 2hr parking on the Market Place, with longer term parking available on West End. Might then be able to think about resident parking schemes.

Wish list: Would include toilets, buses, deliveries, War Memorial, parking for residents, business owners, walkers, tourists, shoppers and visitors, disability access, cyclists, markets, and more foliage, electric vehicle charging points.

TP: Carbon Neutral Northleach has enquired about providing electric car charging in a new car park. However, CH reported grid capacity may not be sufficient locally.

JR had previously circulated several designs to inspire and provoke discussion. The most dramatic design took away the road entrance by the Black Cat Cafe, giving over the whole corner to pedestrians, with bollards to allow emergency access. Herringbone parking was laid out parallel to the High Street, with a one-way system inside the Market Place itself. This design had the most parking spaces.

AR: An analysis of how local businesses support the local economy may be useful as evidence to support the business case for making improvements. AR offered to provide a breakdown of benefits for the next meeting.

## **6. Agreement on Next Steps**

CH will put together thoughts on the process; JR will forward her designs.

Plans of the underlying infrastructure, sewage, electricity etc. would be useful.

TD: requested declarations of interest be included on future agendas.

Areas to be discussed next time: The Green and East End.

## **7. Date And Time of Next Meeting**

Tues 7 February 2022 at the Ox House Barn.

The meeting closed at 7:55 pm

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