

**NOTE OF A CALL-IN MEETING
HELD ON 20th JANUARY, 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
TO DISCUSS THE EXECUTIVE DECISION IN RESPECT OF
LAND OFF CARR ROAD, NELSON**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

M. Iqbal	Leader
D. Clegg	Executive Member for Environmental Services
J. Cooney	Caller-In
K. Turner	Scrutiny Management Team (Chairman)
W. Blackburn	Scrutiny Management Team (Group Spokesperson)
K. Hartley	Scrutiny Management Team (Group Spokesperson)

In Attendance:

D. Langton	Strategic Director
D. Walker	Environmental Services Manager
L. Rowland	Committee Administrator – Scrutiny Lead
J. Watson	Head of Democratic Services

Chairman

Councillor K. Turner	Chairman – Scrutiny Management Team
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1. LAND OFF CARR ROAD, NELSON

Decision Called In

At its meeting on 8th December, 2016 the Executive took the decision shown in the minute below which resulted in a Call In Notice being submitted by Councillors J. Cooney, C. Wakeford and P. White:

“(a) Land off Carr Road, Nelson

The Strategic Director submitted a report requesting that land shown edged black on the plan attached to the report be declared surplus to requirements in order for it to be sold for an alternative use.

Income for use of the land by a funfair and circus was circa £7,000 per year. An additional £1,000 income had resulted from the County Council storing machinery on the site whilst maintaining the roads.

It was reported that there had been interest from a number of parties to purchase the land for commercial use. It was proposed that planning consent be obtained for the change of use of the site from amenity greenspace to commercial use.

The recommendation from Nelson Committee on 7th November, 2016 was “that the Executive be requested to declare the site surplus to requirements in order for it to be disposed of for an alternative use.”

A petition with 142 signatures opposing to the sale of this land was presented at the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the land at Carr Road, Nelson, shown on the plan attached to the report, be declared surplus to requirements in order for the land to be sold/leased for an alternative use.
- (2) That, in view of the interest in purchasing the land, the Strategic Director be authorised to apply for planning permission for commercial use of the land and that it be marketed for sale/leased when planning consent has been granted.
- (3) That the fun fair and the circus be allowed to be held in 2017 and every effort is made to find an alternative site for 2018 onwards.

REASON

To achieve a capital receipt and reduce all liabilities.”

REASON FOR CALL IN

Councillor Cooney explained that the reason for the Call In was that his group believed that the land should be retained for the enjoyment and use of the residents of Barrowford and Nelson. He did not agree that this issue should have been dealt with as an emergency item at the Nelson Committee meeting in December. This site was used by the travelling fairground and circus to use at various times during the year. Councillor Cooney said the land should not be sold and its use changed. He felt that a consultation exercise should be undertaken to identify an alternative use or it be transferred to Nelson Town Council.

Concerns were expressed that the proposed alternative use of the site for commercial activity was not the right use for this site.

EXECUTIVE DECISION

Councillor Iqbal said the process followed had been the right one and said that the Executive had agreed for the fair and circus to continue to use the site for 2017 and that an alternative site be identified for future years. Consulting on an alternative use for the site would slow the process down and it would take much longer for this site, or any other site being sold by the Council, to complete.

Council in December, 2016 had also given a commitment to meet with representatives from Barrowford Parish Council and Nelson Town Council to consider the future use of this site. It was also acknowledged that there was interest from businesses to move into the Borough but there was a shortage of sites for commercial use.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION

Councillor Cooney suggested that the land be retained by the Council or it be transferred to Nelson Town Council to develop and expand it for community use throughout the year.