

REPORT FROM: HEAD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

TO: BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE

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FOR INFORMATION

WILTON STREET, BARROWFORD - CONGESTION AND PARKING ISSUES UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the options to resolve traffic problems experienced on Wilton Street, Barrowford.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To improve highway and parking issues at this location.

ISSUE

1. There have been issues with heavy traffic and congestion together with problems with parking and a lack of enforcement on Wilton Street, Barrowford for some time.
2. These issues were raised with Lancashire County Council, which agreed to carry out additional parking enforcement.
3. PBC Engineers were asked to look at various options to try to resolve the congestion/parking issues at the same time. They met with councillors to consider these options which were reported back to committee in June 2022 and January 2023.
4. The last report went to committee in August 2023, where it was reported that the only two viable options were:
 - (a) to create additional parking near to the MUGA at Bullholme; and
 - (b) the planned event/training/parking area opposite the Steven Burke Sports Hub.

5. However, in the January 2023 report it was decided that there was not enough funding for additional parking next to the MUGA at Bullholme.
6. Seeing as the proposed event/training/parking area was already part of an LEF (Lancashire Environmental Fund) scheme which had funding secured at the time, the Committee decided this was the best option to try to alleviate the parking issues on Wilton Street.

LEF SCHEME UPDATE

7. The full LEF scheme included a refurbished container for toilets and a small office space for the cycle circuit users as well as low-level solar lighting along the paths. The original bid included sewage and rainwater harvesting tanks seeing as there was no water supply on site. It also included the event/training/parking mentioned above.
8. The event/training/parking space would be a porous bitmac surface, similar to the BMX car park and it is estimated that it would accommodate approximately 25 cars.
9. This, together with the BMX car park, would help to alleviate car parking issues on Wilton Street, especially on a Saturday morning.
10. Money for the scheme was achieved from the Lancashire Environment Fund (LEF), Pendle Council capital funding and money from CDPP (Cycle Development Pendle Partnership), Pendle's cycle liaison group.
11. CDPP's money is achieved via hiring out the cycle circuit. The whole project was initiated by CDPP requesting the need for toilets on site and we used their funding to apply to LEF and PBC capital fund.
12. The scheme has not started because it required planning permission as well as permission from the Environment Agency for the sewage tanks.
13. In addition, PBC's capital funding towards the scheme has not been carried forward from previous years and the time limit on the LEF funding has also lapsed.
14. Engineers have contacted LEF to find out whether they would accept a new application for the scheme and whether we could do the scheme in stages with the event/training/parking area being done first. The LEF funding would follow for the refurbished container for the toilets.
15. In conclusion, we no longer have the LEF and PBC funding to complete the full scheme. We are waiting to hear back from LEF about the possibility of reapplying to them for funding. CDPP's funding is still available but we need to liaise with CDPP to find out whether they are still happy for the funding to be go towards this scheme.
16. If we are able to do the scheme in phases with the event/training/parking area being the first phase, we would need to reapply to PBC capital funds and/or to this Committee for funding.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The LEF scheme including the event/training/parking area and converted container to include toilets and office space will need planning permission and Environment Agency approval.

Financial: Funding for the scheme, including the event/training/parking area, converted container to include toilets and office space and the solar lighting was part of a successful bid to LEF, PBC

Capital Programme and CDPF funding from hiring out the cycle circuit. However, the funding is no longer secure.

Legal: The scheme cannot progress until planning permission is in place and Environment Agency approval is granted.

Risk Management: LEF funding ran out in October, 2023. As the scheme had not started by October, a new funding bid would need to be submitted to LEF if possible.

Health and Safety: The scheme will assist with the health and safety of users of the Steven Burke Sports Hub closed road cycle circuit and BMX pump track as it will provide toilets for circuit users. The request for toilets has come from training providers that use the circuit. In particular, the need is for families with young children and Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) groups who attend training sessions at the circuit.

Climate Change: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: Improvements to the flow of traffic and parking would discourage drivers from parking illegally, thus improving the safety of pedestrians, vehicle and cycle users in the area. The aim is to also ease congestion on Wilton Street, Barrowford.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

APPENDICES: None.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reports to Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee on 2nd February 2022 and 2nd August 2023.