



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Date of Meeting: 20th November 2006

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: TALKIN TARN ESTATE - PETITION RE-PARKING CHARGES

Report of: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report reference: CS61/06

Summary:

The report relates to a petition received through Brampton Parish Council on behalf of Mrs J C Salkeld dated 20th October 2006 opposing parking charges being introduced at the re-developed Talkin Tarn Estate.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the petition be received and that Members make a decision on the issues raised within the petition in accordance with the City Councils agreed procedures.

Contact Officer: Les Tickner

Ext: 5034

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 The petition enclosed as Appendix A has been passed to the Clerk to Brampton Parish Council from a Mrs J C Salkeld of Fern Bank Cottage, Heads Nook.

In accordance with Carlisle City Council's standing orders, where a petition has been received which is signed by at least 30 registered electors of the district, a representative of the petitioners is invited to attend the relevant Committee meeting to speak for not more than 5 minutes on the subject matter of the petition.

Full details have been sent to Mrs Salkeld in writing on 23rd October 2006 from the Director of Legal & Democratic Services. Copy letter enclosed as Appendix B.

The petition opposes the introduction of Car Parking Charges and asks for an annual pass confirming exemption from Parking Charges.

The petition contains 233 signatures broken down as follows:-

Brampton Area	72	=	31%
Carlisle	136	=	58%
Other	<u>25</u>	=	<u>11%</u>
	233		100%

1.3 Business Plan

In June 2005 a detailed Business Plan was produced for Talkin Tarn Estate and was approved by the Executive (Decision Ex 129/05) and subsequently Council at its meeting on 29 July 2005.

The report contained recommendations in relation to physical improvements, which were in line with environmental and sustainability considerations as well as meeting our statutory obligations in relation to Health & Safety and disabled access. These improvements were agreed and the works are substantially complete to programme and to budget.

- 1.4 The approved Business Plan also included details of the proposed revenue costs and income. Within that Plan there was a clear assumption that income would need to be generated, primarily from car parking charge income. Initially the forecast full year car park income was shown as £30,000 / year rising to £40,000 after 3 years to compensate for the cessation of the County Council dowry.

- 1.5 It is important to review the context of the City Council's acquisition of Talkin Tarn. There had been a significant under investment in the maintenance of the facility and urgent works were required to address this which included compliance with Health and Safety and disabled access legislation. The improvement works which have recently been completed have retained the character of the area and created usable facilities. These works have been designed to keep maintenance and operational costs to a minimum. However failure to improve the facility to enable its benefits to be fully appreciated and to maintain and update these over time does incur a revenue cost. The Council has clearly decided that some of this should be met by the introduction of car parking charges.
- 1.6 Consideration of any parking charges has been deferred during the improvement works and it is the intention to table charging options when the updated Business Plan is presented to the Executive in December. Officers are sensitive to the issue of parking charges, which needs to be balanced with the impact on users of the Tarn. Income from the café is dependent on usage levels for example. There also needs to be recognition of the usage and duration of visits to reflect short visits to walk around the Tarn and to encourage regular visitors.
- 1.7 It should also be emphasised that the current philosophy being adopted is that whilst it is not the intention to generate a surplus on the trading account for Talkin Tarn – nor can it run at a loss – any surplus would be reinvested into the facility.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date.

Officers have been in consultation with users and partners in order to develop the Business Plan.

2.2 Consultation proposed. Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Any charging proposals would be published in the media and on site notices.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the petition be received and that Members make a decision on the issues raised within the petition in accordance with the City Councils agreed procedures.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Council acquired Talkin Tarn on the basis of improvement proposals and a business case for the revenue costs. Parking charges were identified as an income stream and will continue to be in the updated Business Plan.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Nil
- Financial – The current Business Plan is viable subject to Parking Charges being introduced. Should the Council resolve not to introduce parking charges to balance budgeted revenue costs then additional revenue funding would be required.
- Legal – The car park will require a legal order in order to manage the charging policy
- Corporate – This is a corporate asset which requires investment in order to maintain/improve and add value.
- Risk Management – If revenue is not achieved through parking charges then alternative income streams will need to be identified, or operational standards reduced. An inappropriately high level of parking charges may deter visitors and reduce overall usage of the facility.
- Equality Issues – The improvement work has been undertaken in accordance with Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requirements.
- Environmental – The works undertaken meet good environmental policies, and have been included as part of the educational facilities of the site.
- Crime and Disorder – A controlled car park reduces crime and disorder.

- Impact on Customers – The asset will deteriorate if insufficient revenue is available for maintenance and improvement. This will reduce visitor numbers and customer appreciation.

TO: MAGGIE MOONEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

TALKIN TARN PROPOSED CAR PARKING CHARGES.

WE FIERCELY OPPOSE THE INTRODUCTION OF CAR PARKING CHARGES.

WE DID NOT ASK FOR THE COSTLY IMPROVEMENTS TO BE CARRIED OUT AND, INDEED, CONSIDER ~~MUCH~~ OF IT TO BE UNNECESSARY.

WE WALK REGULARLY AROUND THE TARN, ENJOY THE LANDSCAPE AND THE GOOD SOCIAL INTERACTION.

WE PAY HIGH RATES OF COUNCIL TAX AND CONSIDER, THEREFORE, THAT WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY EXTRA TO ENJOY WALKING AROUND ONE OF OUR LOCAL BEAUTY SPOTS. THERE ARE NO PARKING CHARGES TO WALK AROUND OTHER PARKS WITHIN THE CARLISLE | BRAMPTON AREA.

WE CONSIDER THAT WE SHOULD BE ISSUED WITH AN ANNUAL PASS CONFIRMING EXEMPTION FROM PARKING CHARGES