



# Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	<b>POLICY COMMISSION FOR BUSINESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Commission	Cllrs Jonathan Fitzgerald-Bond (Commissioner), Henry Adams, William Burt, Charles Hancock, Peter Humber
Cabinet	None
Other Councillors	None
Officers Present	Mr Jonathan Baker - Committee Services Mr Scott Headey - Parking Services Manager Miss Andrea Lisseter - Overview and Scrutiny Team Mr Stuart Love - Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services Mr Rob Owen - Head of Consumer Protection
Stakeholders	None
Apologies	Cllr John Hobart

1. **Notes of Evidence**

- 1.1 The notes of evidence from the previous meeting on the [2 January 2008](#) were agreed.
- 1.2 The Commission was told that the Isle of Wight has no Incinerators of a suitable standard that would be acceptable in the disposal of animal waste. This included the Park Road site. Incinerator and Funding would be addressed in a forthcoming National Farmers Union (NFU) Report, which was due to be published within the coming week.
- 1.3 The Commission had made contact with Hamilton's Fine Foods, a local Butcher, and a meeting between the Commission and Hamilton's would take place in late February 2008.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 There were no declarations given.

3. **Island Abattoir Feasibility Study**

- 3.1 The Chairman stated that no commitment to an Island abattoir had been established from any of the mainland abattoirs. This was largely due to the fact that the abattoirs already have the Island

business and opening an additional slaughterhouse would not make financial sense.

- 3.2 It was noted that contact had been made with Mr William Tuffrey of WA Foods in Shanklin who confirmed an interest in operating an abattoir on the Park Farm site owned by Mr Mark Newman.
- 3.3 Mr Tuffrey had indicated that he would draw up some initial plans, including full costing, that would be looked at by Planning before being passed on to the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).
- 3.4 It was reported that the Commission was still awaiting further input from Mr Colin England, who represents a consortium interested in opening a safari park on the Island as well as providing support for an Abattoir.
- 3.5 The Chairman once again reiterated that the Isle of Wight Councils would be committed to supporting such a venture, but not on a financial basis.
- 3.6 Members raised concerns regarding the proposal of a farm shop near the location of the abattoir. The possibility of unpleasant odours could have a detrimental effect on the business of the shop, putting off prospective customers. It was suggested by the Head of Consumer Protection, that a possible future visit to a similar set up in the north east of England would help gain a better understanding of how this situation could be managed.

#### 4. **Multi Storey Car Parks**

- 4.1 The board was presented with the original scoping document for this item as well as an update report. These looked at car parking difficulties in Cowes, East Cowes, Ryde and Newport.
- 4.2 The main focus of the investigation centred on Cowes and Ryde, both of which have heavily over subscribed car parks and few street parking spaces.
- 4.3 The Commission was reminded that a meeting had taken place in Cowes with the Mayor who raised serious concerns about the issues of "Commuter Parking". This was when daily commuters used the long stay car parks such as Park Road to leave cars whilst travelling to the mainland on the Red Jet Ferry Service.
- 4.4 It was noted that the Park and Ride scheme in Somerton was serving Cowes well, but was not enough to tackle the whole parking problem. There were also some issues with drivers using the car park solely for the Industrial Estate in that region.
- 4.5 The Parking Services Manager addressed the meeting and it was noted that the percentage figures in the update report were for residential permit holders who used the car parks all day in conjunction with the Council scheme that allowed nominating one

Island car park to park for a maximum 24 hour period. It was noted that approximately 50% of spaces in Park Road, Cowes and Quay Road, Ryde were used up all day by Commuter Parking via this scheme.

- 4.6 It was noted that the standard residential permits that allowed a maximum 8 hour stay were not included in the analysis.
- 4.7 Members were told that the Airport Parking Corporation of America (APCOA) had expressed an interest following a meeting on the 18 January 2008, in the funding of a Multi Storey car parking facility in Cowes. Figures had been sent to APCOA and the Commission was awaiting a reply.
- 4.8 Members were told that a meeting with Ryde Management Committee on 28 January 2008 discussed Upper St Thomas's Street car park in the town and were broadly in favour of a Multi Storey car park on the site that would address parking needs, particularly during the summer months. However, any development of the St Thomas's Street site would need to be done sympathetically with due consideration to the surrounding residential properties and amenities.
- 4.9 It was reported that a meeting with Euro Car Parks on February 15 and National Car Parks (NCP) on February 18 would also explore further options and costs. It appeared that Euro Car Parks were offering the more attractive financial proposition to the Authority, although further clarification of this was needed. Members also agreed that cost should not be compromised by quality. Members also stated that if the cost to build a Multi Storey car park was lower than anticipated, then the option for the Council to construct should not be ruled out. It was anticipated that a further update on these meetings would be presented at the next Policy Commission meeting.
- 4.10 The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services advised that the Authority should keep an open mind when looking at all proposals, but not make any undue commitment.
- 4.11 It was noted that there was potential for parking schemes in East Cowes, but this would be largely dependent on the regeneration of the region. Newport's parking demands were high, but were not seen as a main priority as it was not used for Commuter parking.
- 4.12 The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services reported that Network Rail had expressed an interest in assisting with any possible Park and Ride scheme around the Smallbrook Halt area near Ryde.
- 4.13 Further Park and Ride options would also continue to be assessed and Rink Road, Ryde and Westridge near Ryde could be looked at. However Members expressed concerns about Westridge and its close proximity to Tesco, encouraging shoppers for the store to use

the parking facility. Members also noted that the Ryde Business Association were keen not to encourage further parking around the Tesco site.

4.14 Concern was also expressed regarding the Rink Road site and its former use as a Gas Works site. It was noted that this would be taken into consideration should the site be developed.

The Meeting closed at 6.45pm

Chairman.....Date.....