



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	POLICY COMMISSION FOR BUSINESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 02 JANUARY 2008 AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Commission	Cllrs Jonathan Fitzgerald-Bond (Commissioner), Henry Adams, William Burt, Charles Hancock
Cabinet	None
Other Councillors	Cllrs Mike Cunningham and David Williams
Officers Present	Mr Jonathan Baker - Committee Services Miss Andrea Lisseter - Overview and Scrutiny Team Mr Rob Owen - Head of Consumer Protection
Stakeholders	None
Apologies	Cllrs John Hobart and Peter Humber

1. **Notes of Evidence**

1.1 The notes of evidence from the previous meeting on the [14 November 2007](#) were agreed.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

2.1 There were no declarations given.

3. **Island Abattoir Feasibility Study**

3.1 The Chairman reported that there had been little activity on this item since the last Commission Meeting on the 14 November 2007, although a letter had been received from Mr Colin England regarding the proposed Safari Park that he was involved with. Mr England stated that his interest and support in the setting up and running of an abattoir was still strong.

3.2 The Commission was also told that on Friday 4 January 2008, a delegation of members and officers of the Council would visit Park Farm on the outskirts of Newport to look at the site of a former slaughterhouse and evaluate the possibilities of re establishing such a facility there again.

- 3.3 The Head of Consumer Protection stated that he would look at the possibilities of an incinerator on the Island, but expressed concerns over the disposal of animal waste.
- 3.4 It was also reported that there had been some contact with Hamilton's Butchers who would be interested in discussing the possibilities of an abattoir as well as contact from the Co-op which specialise in focussing on locally produced food.
- 3.5 The Chairman wished it to be noted that the issue of an abattoir was still very much alive and that a blue paper would be produced by mid April 2008.

4. **Multi Storey Car Parks**

- 4.1 The Commission was given an update that reviewed the situation with parking facilities in Cowes and Ryde and the feasibility of putting in place Multi Storey Car Parks to ease the burden of parking in these locations.
- 4.2 It was reported that the cost of not only building such facilities but also maintaining them would be very high, particularly after the implementation of the Island Resident Parking Permit Scheme, and that it might be best to review the current facilities and see how these can be improved.
- 4.3 An informal meeting had taken place with the Mayor of Cowes and concerns had been raised regarding the growing problem of "Commuter" parking. This was where Islanders working on the mainland would use Long Stay Car Parks such as Brunswick Road and Park Road; leave their cars for the day to catch the ferry thus preventing the daily visitor to Cowes to park their cars. There was real concern that this was preventing people using businesses in Cowes and affecting the town's economy.
- 4.4 It was suggested that the best way to tackle this problem would be to look at the possibility of using legislation. This could involve reducing the maximum times allowed to park in the Long Stay Car Parks. However, it was noted that any changes would be done after more Park and Ride facilities had been put in place in Somerton. Full support from Southern Vectis would also be essential for this to succeed and the cost to the consumer would need to be attractive. It was noted that the current Park and Ride in Somerton had proved popular and showed that this could be the way forward if managed correctly.
- 4.5 The Commission was told that there was also some potential to provide some extra spaces at the St Johns Park and Ride facilities at the Train Station in Ryde. Expansion of the current park and ride systems in Cowes and Ryde could also be investigated.

- 4.6 Another possibility would be to look at establishing a Park and Ride facility at Smallbrook in Ryde which could be used in conjunction with Island Line Trains at Smallbrook Halt. However it was noted that such a facility may have to be incorporated into a possible future housing development within this area. It was also noted that the current frequency of the trains would not be attractive to Park and Ride users and co-operation from Island Line would be needed to review this.
- 4.7 It was also stated that there may be possibilities to expand the resident's permits for street parking around Cowes and Ryde.
- 4.8 The Commission did not want to be seen to punish the Commuter to the mainland and recognised that they bring hard earned revenue back to the Islands economy. However it was noted that the current prices for all day parking in the Isle of Wight's Council's Car Parks was significantly lower than many of the Long Stay Car Parks in Southampton and Portsmouth.
- 4.9 The Chairman enquired about exploring the possibility of talking to private car park operators such as the National Car Parks (NCP) and asking them if it would be financially viable to build and manage a parking facility above a current Council Car Park such as St Mary's Road in Cowes. This could be discussed at a future meeting, but it was noted that once again cost would be a key issue.
- 4.10 It was duly noted that other areas of the Island such as the Bay Area around Sandown and Shanklin as well as Newport should not be overlooked when addressing problems of parking. The Commission said that the immediate areas of study were Cowes and Ryde, however if the findings of the study suggested that multi-storey car parks could be financially viable on the Island then other areas would be considered.
- 4.11 The Commission reported that there was no statistics to hand that gave the numbers of annual commuters, however it was noted that the total number of commuters did not necessarily reflect the amount of cars using parking spaces as many commuters would car share or use public transport. Figures would be sought from Engineering Services.
- 4.12 It was noted that these problems with parking are an all year round issue and must be addressed using a balance of enforcement and encouragement.

The Meeting closed at 6.40pm