

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Transport and Planning
Date	9 December 2015
Present	Councillor Gillies

35. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member was asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests he may have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

36. Public Participation - Decision Session

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

It was reported that a written submission had been received from Mr Allan Charlesworth who had been hoping to attend the meeting. The written submission was read out by the Executive Member and the main points were as follows:

- The application is out of touch with village thinking and the current village plan is adequate.
- The issue of joint designation had not been put to Huntington or Strensall Parish Councils.
- It is inaccurate to state that there is no obvious relationship between Huntington, Strensall and Earswick
- Residents of Earswick would be better served if the Parish Council initiated a joint venture with adjacent parishes of Strensall and Huntington to take a more holistic view of infrastructure and services.
- Mr Charlesworth requested that the decision over designation be deferred and be referred back to Earswick Parish Council with the recommendation that tri-parish talks should take place to explore the benefits of a combined submission for one joint designated area.

There had been one registration to speak on agenda item 3 Earswick Neighbourhood Plan.

Ian Yeowart spoke on behalf of Earswick Parish Council. He advised that the Parish Council had created a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and as part of the work undertaken, 200 questionnaires had been distributed around the village which had resulted in a 63% response rate. In response to the objections received during the consultation period and by Mr Charlesworth in writing at the meeting, he advised that the comments do not reflect the views of the whole village and that the process had been open and transparent. He stated that in a meeting this week, members of the community had unanimously voted against a tri-parish plan. He confirmed that he did not wish to see the application deferred.

37. Earswick Neighbourhood Plan

The Executive Member considered a report which summarised the responses received during the recent consultation on an application by Earswick Parish Council for a Neighbourhood Plan Area. The report also recommended that the application to designate the Parish of Earswick as Neighbourhood Planning Area be approved.

In response to the points raised in the written submission by Mr Charlesworth, the Council's Legal Officer spoke to confirm that the matter of the boundary sits with the Neighbourhood Plan Applicant, in this case the Parish Council, and as they did not wish the matter to be deferred then there was no reason why the Executive Member could not determine application.

The Executive Member advised that having acknowledged the comments made in respect of the application and the advice of the legal officer, he was minded to approve Option 1.

Resolved: That the Executive Member approved Option 1 to approve the application to designate the neighbourhood area for Earswick Neighbourhood Plan, including the proposed boundary (Annex A of the report) without modification.

Reason: To allow Earswick Parish Council to progress the Neighbourhood Plan.

38. Free Youth Bus Travel for January 2016

The Executive Member considered a report which provided details of an offer which will provide free local bus travel on Saturday and Sunday for the months of January and February 2016 within the City of York administrative area for children and young people up to the age of 18 years old.

Officers outlined the report and advised that the offer was the result of commercial negotiations with bus companies following a one off sum of £100,000 which was allocated for the provision of incentives which would make bus travel more attractive for young people.

The Executive Member was aware of a representation from the Labour Group who had queried why Option 1 to use the funding until it ran out, had not been recommended. Officers advised that it would be preferable to pause to assess the effectiveness of the offer after a short period rather than continuing the expenditure until it is exhausted.

Resolved: That the Executive Member approved Option 2b and approved funding of the free weekend bus travel initiative for the months of January and February 2016. Officers will then bring a report to a further Executive Member Decision Session summarising the costs and benefits of the initiative before proposing a further extension of the scheme.

Reason: In the short term, to encourage young people to make greater use of the local bus network. In the longer term, to persuade young people to apply for a 'YOzone' card which will encourage and embed sustainable travel habits in the months and years ahead.

Councillor Gillies, Executive Member
[The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 4.15 pm].