

GNLRT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

14th September 2004

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CITY DEVELOPMENT

PARKING FOR RESIDENTS NOEL STREET, FOREST FIELDS – BERRIDGE WARD

Introduction

The construction of Nottingham Express Transit (NET) line 1 was undertaken under a Private Finance Initiative based on land made available in the Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Act 1994. This designated two way tram movements of trams on Noel Street between Gregory Boulevard and Terrace Street. Residents of houses on the east side of Noel Street on this section have complained that there is insufficient parking capacity in this vicinity within a reasonable distance from their homes. This report recommends alterations to increase parking in this vicinity utilising the highway in front of Braidwood Court and taking a small area of the landscaping.

Background

During the construction of NET the existing layby outside Braidwood Court was reconstructed and extended to the maximum extent to ensure safety for the tram, vehicles and pedestrians in the vicinity. The current layout is shown on the photo below and the layby is capable of accommodating a maximum of 7 vehicles, however, because residents come and go this can be as low as 5 due to the space left between vehicles. Prior to the work, parking was permitted outside these houses.



Following concerns from residents a number of layouts were explored to provide a separate parking area by utilising the landscaped area in front of Braidwood Court. However, this provided little increase in spaces and the costs associated with this were very high due to the need to reconstruct the access to the flats. An alternative proposal has been designed which requires vehicles to reverse into echelon bays, this provides 10 spaces, maintains a 2m footway between the parking and the tramway and only removes small sections of the landscaped area. This proposal is shown on the attached plan and will reinstate the boundary wall to the landscaped area to the same standard as exists at present. This issue has been discussed with Officers from Housing who have no objection in principle to the proposal. Formal agreement to the release of the landscaped area and its adoption as highway is being sought.

Residents have also asked for an electrical and water supply to be installed adjacent to the parking area to facilitate cleaning cars, as they cannot park outside their homes without obstructing trams. This has significant health and safety issues, particularly with the electrical supply due to domestic equipment and cables being left unattended or unprotected across the highway and the risk of interference and electrocution or exposure to risk through vandalism. The risks associated with the provision of power and water would require specific public liability insurance that would not be available in these circumstances. There is also the difficulty of the subsequent ongoing funding for the supply of electricity and water. It is therefore not proposed to proceed further with this.

Financial implications

It is estimated that this proposal will cost £50,000 that will be met from contingencies in the NET line 1 budget.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the proposal to construct additional parking at this location be supported.

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