

Thetford Railway Station Car Parking
Report of Robert Campbell

Summary

Discussions have taken place with Greater Anglia to establish the feasibility of expanding car parking provision at Thetford Railway Station.

Recommendations

- (i) That the board seeks funding to support the preparation of a business case for the development of additional station car parking on some of the land currently allocated to allotments.

1. Introduction

Thetford Station currently has parking for 35 cars, including 2 disabled bays. The parking is managed by NCP on behalf of Greater Anglia Trains and is available to users on a chargeable basis.

Additional parking is provided for taxis and there is one 20 minute short stay slot designed for drop off and pick up.

2. Previous discussions

The board has previously discussed the possibility of providing additional parking by utilising some of the existing allotment space on the other side of the tracks from the current parking. The idea was based on Thetford Town Council releasing some of the allotment land providing that a similar sized plot be made available for allotment use from either District or County land ownership.

The need for additional parking is based on likely increased demand from residents of the new Kingsfleet housing development which has now started construction of the first phase.

3. Discussions with Greater Anglia

Formal discussions have taken place with Greater Anglia to establish whether they would be supportive of enlarging car parking at Thetford Station. The discussions confirmed the following:-

- Whilst Greater Anglia is supportive of the idea to increase car parking at Thetford Station, they could not finance the scheme during the current franchise period (to 2025) even if the public sector donated the land.
- The only option, involving Greater Anglia during this franchise period, would be for the public sector to fund Greater Anglia to undertake the scheme.

4. Other options

An alternative option would be for one of the three tiers of Council (or a partnership) to undertake the construction and management of the car park on a commercial basis.

5. Amount of allotment land which would be required

The allotment site currently has around 100 plots.

As a rough initial estimate, provision of an additional 50 car parking spaces is likely to require no more than 10% of the current plots.

6. Next steps

Suggested next steps are:-

Establish whether there are alternative potential sites in public ownership to replace the allotment space which would be reallocated to car parking.

If a land swap looks to be feasible, seek funding from within the GTDP partnership to prepare a fully costed business plan for a public sector funded and run project.

7. Contribution to Board Objectives

To revitalise Thetford town centre and improve connectivity with public and other forms of transport.

8. Recommendations

(i) That the board seeks funding to support the preparation of a business case for the development of additional station car parking on some of the land currently allocated to allotments.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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