

From: Group captain R H Middleton JP, RAF(Retd)
Chairman, Taking Attleborough Forward

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Dear Councillor Matthews

Parking Task and Finish Group – Attleborough

First, may I thank you and your committee for the time being spent on studying the parking problems across the District and in particular Attleborough. I write to you as Chairman of a Community Group, Taking Attleborough Forward (TAF).

In Oct 08 we formed TAF as a Community group to try to ensure that the proposal to develop 4500 houses in Attleborough was carried out in a sustainable way. Its members include District and Town Councillors and interested members of the community. From the outset the Group has engaged with Breckland DC and accepts that Attleborough should bear its share of the new housing requirement imposed on the District by the RSS. Furthermore, it recognises that a large-scale development, if carried out in a sympathetic and sustainable way, could bring benefits to the town because it is very short of community facilities and infrastructure.

With regards to the parking review currently being undertaken in Attleborough we would like to make the following comments:

- Although we do not wish to look at the past we do feel that there are lessons to be learnt. Many of the problems within Attleborough have been created by the piecemeal approach to development within the town and surrounding hinterland, without investing in the appropriate infrastructure to support it.
- As I am sure you are aware, the proposals for the future development of Attleborough will be taken forward through the Attleborough and Snetterton Area Action Plan (AAP). We believe that it is imperative that any major scheme to resolve the short term parking problems identified by your review should be included in the AAP to ensure a coordinated approach to resolving the short and long term parking issues.
- We believe that a co-ordinated multi agency approach to the short-term issue is essential. We understand that, subject to NetworkRail/NCC

funding, the railway station car park will be redeveloped and a charging policy put in place. This in turn will create parking issues in Connaught Football and Bowls Club (Town Council owned) and Connaught Hall and Station Road Surgery. Without a coordinated approach the parking problem will just move elsewhere, particularly as there is no enforcement of parking restrictions within Attleborough.

- With regards to the Queens Square car park we believe that redesigning the current area and working with the other landowners, that currently allow parking, will expand the parking capacity and may well resolve the short term issue.
- As a group we have no views on the issue of charging. However if charging is to be put in place it has to be done in a coordinated way across Attleborough to take into consideration long and short-term parking and not just the Town Centre issue.
- We also believe that a public meeting and consultation should be held regarding the issue prior to any formal decisions being made. The residents of Attleborough and its hinterland live with this current problem and therefore deserve the opportunity to 'own' any resolution.

We look forward to hearing the outcome of your discussions and studies in due course.

Yours sincerely

Richard Middleton