NOTICE OF MOTION RELATING TO THE CAR PARK IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO FOLEY HOUSE, HAVERFORDWEST

Cabinet on 3 October 2016 considered a report by the Director of Development arising out of a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T B Tudor which had been referred to Cabinet for consideration and report back to Council for determination; such motion being in the following terms:

Attached to Foley House is a car park which can accommodate up to 25 cars with the correct car parking bays marked out. Previously this car park was open for local residents to park their vehicles. Pembrokeshire County Council closed the car park at the time when Foley House was advertised for sale in 2003.

To date Foley House has not been purchased, as such I call on Pembrokeshire County Council to re-open the car park and allow the local residents of Goat Street, Hermon’s Hill and Hill Lane to utilise the car park operating the Council’s residents parking permit policy.

The report considered by Cabinet is attached as Appendix A.

Cabinet’s Decision was to recommend that the Notice of Motion be not adopted; and that a report be commissioned on the physical requirements and financial and market barriers to progressing the sale of Foley House.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be recommended that the Notice of Motion be not adopted; and that a report be commissioned on the physical requirements and financial and market barriers to progressing the sale of Foley House.

Background Documents: None
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To date Foley House has not been purchased, as such I call on Pembrokeshire County Council to re-open the car park and allow the local residents of Goat Street, Hermon’s Hill and Hill Lane to utilise the car park operating the Council’s residents parking permit policy.

Councillor Tudor’s written supporting submission to his Notice of Motion is attached as an Appendix.

The Council is currently offering for sale Foley House, a John Nash designed building, and the adjoining Foley House cottage. To the rear of Foley House is an enclosed parking area, which was formerly gardens associated with the building, before its conversion to office use for the local authority.

Foley House is Grade 2* listed and, as a result of poor quality refurbishment and repairs undertaken over many years, is in need of corrective works. The need for these works has had a detrimental impact on the marketing.

In light of the above, Officers are currently undertaking a study to identify the corrective works required and provide cost estimates, in order that this information can be provided to potential purchasers enabling them to understand the potential costs involved in purchasing such a project.

Whilst the property has been marketed the associated car parking area has been closed.

A previous Notice of Motion along similar lines was not supported by Members as it was felt that, in the event of a successful sale of Foley House,
the local residents would subsequently have to endure further disappointment if the parking was withdrawn by the new owners. Officers are of the view that this reason remains valid.

The Council also has experienced difficulties elsewhere when car parking has been permitted on a temporary basis within the curtilage of a vacant property. One such example is where parking had been offered on a temporary basis until the property was sold, however the local Town/Community Council is now challenging the loss of the parking provision, potentially to the detriment of the property disposal. With the difficulties being experienced in the marketing of Foley House, it is considered that nothing should be done which may be detrimental to securing interest in the property that may lead to a sale.

In addition to the above, the parking area itself has not been maintained for some years. It is overgrown, needs clearing and repairing, and would require line painting, lighting and the erection of gates in order to enable its use for parking purposes. It would also require a relevant Parking Order to enable its use as a Council residents permit car park. The alternative to a Parking Order would be to operate this as a private car park with a parking attendant. All of these come at a cost, for which there is no budget.

Furthermore, the Council has a responsibility for keeping its vacant properties secure and it is felt that by opening the parking area immediately to the rear of Foley House for resident parking, this would adversely impact on the security of Foley House itself, which could lead to the need for more costly repairs.

For all the above reasons it is felt that opening the parking area to the rear of Foley House for resident parking is not advisable and should not be permitted.

**Comments by Chief Finance Officer**

There are no specific finance issues arising from this report.

**Comments by Head of Legal and Committee Services**

There are no legal issues arising from this report.

**Comments by Head of Human Resources**

There are no specific human resources issues arising from this report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Notice of Motion be not adopted.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

*To address a Notice of Motion referred from Council.*

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**Background Documents:**

None
Supporting Submission - Notice of Motion relating to the Car Park immediately adjacent to Foley House, Haverfordwest

As a direct result of opening this car park for the residents to park their vehicles this will reduce on street parking considerably in this location of Haverfordwest, thus releasing valuable parking bays in other areas of Haverfordwest.

I have put forward this notice of motion previously, however it did not have the support from the Officers of the authority as they felt that in the event of a successful sale of Foley House the local residents would subsequently have to endure further disappointment if the fact that they would not be allowed to park in the car park by the new owners.

It is very clear that the authority is unable to sell Foley House, as such my notice of motion requests that the gates of Foley House are opened for the residents of Goat Street, Hill Lane and Hermons Hill to park their vehicles in the car park utilizing the council’s residents parking permit scheme.

Councillor T B Tudor