

# Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party 19 July 2011

# **Temporary Park and Ride Site**

## 1. Background

- 1.1 A report was submitted to the Bury Area Working Party in May 2010 (Paper A678 refers) in which the need for a temporary Park and Ride facility was identified. Due to the ever increasing popularity of the Christmas Fayre (especially on the Friday) car parking reached capacity last year and provision of this facility will enable the periods of exceptional demand for car parking, such as the Christmas Fayre and the immediate pre-Christmas weekends, to be met.
- 1.2 Additionally parking capacity is also likely to be diminished this year as the 100 plus spaces at Shire Hall previously available on weekends have been have been sold as part of Suffolk County Council's sale of the office complex. It is not known at this point if the developer will make these available for use.

### 2. Current position

- 2.1 The project for a temporary Park and Ride facility was approved by Cabinet and supported by Suffolk County Council with financial funding and a site was identified at Rougham airfield.
- 2.2 Early negotiations with the owners were positive as the investment in the facilities would be beneficial for both i.e. for events in the town but also for the special events held at the airfield. However negotiations with the owners' land agents have not been successful and no agreement can be reached.

#### 3. Alternative Site

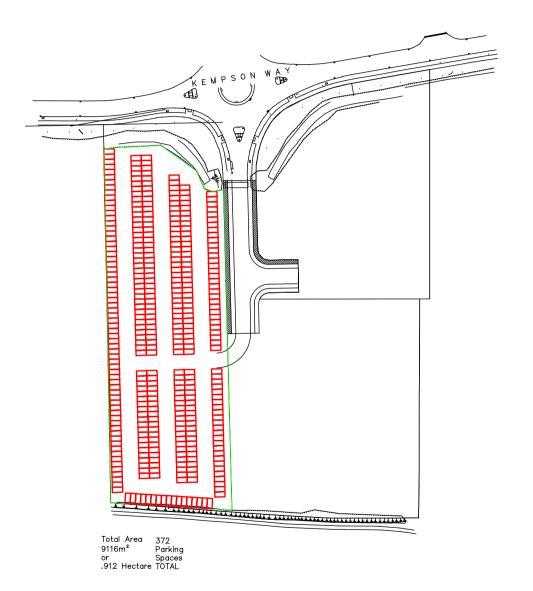
- 3.1 An alternative site has been identified that being land owned by St Edmundsbury Borough Council at Moreton Hall off Kempson Way (site E2). This land is designated for employment use and has been for sale for a number of years. Due to the economic climate there has been little interest in the site until last month. Currently there are two parties who have shown an initial interest in taking part of the site but these are very initial soundings.
- 3.2 It is therefore proposed that approximately a third of the site is set aside for temporary park and ride, as detailed on Appendix A, forming approximately 370 spaces. This approach will leave available two thirds for development should an early offer materialise.

- 3.3 Works would be restricted to scraping and levelling an area and applying a surface dressing such as reused road planings or a reinforced plastic matting. Temporary toilets and lighting units will be hired in as needed.
- 3.4 The cost of the works are estimated to be approximately £50k and funding from Suffolk County Council's On-Street Parking Account was allocated. Confirmation that this remains available has recently been given.
- 3.5 Clarification on the requirement for planning permission is currently being sought.
- 3.6 Depending on the above it is anticipated that the works will commence in September and the site will be available in time for this year's Christmas Fayre.

#### 4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that this initiative to provide a temporary park and ride site at land owned by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (site E2) as shown in Appendix A to Report C74 to be funded by Suffolk County Council be recommended to Cabinet for approval subject to:-
  - (i) discussion relating to the current interests in the site being concluded; and
  - (ii) any necessary planning consent being obtained.

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PLANNING & PHOMEPHING SPRACEI

Rempson Way Bury St Edmunds

Site E2 Access Road Temporary Car Parking

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